



SAFE COASTAL TOURISM NPO

Dear Ms Mantyi,

We thank you for the opportunity you have given us to present our project to you during our meeting on the 8th February in East London. We felt much welcomed and were happy to get the chance to present our project. We are now convinced that we can establish a fruitful cooperation between our NGO and the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency in the benefit of all tourists visiting the beautiful Eastern Cape national parks.

In this email we would like to give an overview of what has been discussed as a starting point for our shared future projects. First of all from your side the intention was communicated to have an ocean safety message featuring on the new website of your organization. We applaud that. This means a big step to us. Even if it might come down to negative publicity for the coast, we do believe however that a tourist will feel better informed and therefore safer knowing a watchful and caring guide is there to watch over him. To help your IT department, we have attached the ocean safety message which our organization highly recommends and is approved by the International Lifesaving Organization and it has been already included in the website www.wildcoast.co.za (<http://www.wildcoast.co.za/swimming>). We acknowledge that the ECPTA only advises swimming in designated areas. But even in these areas an unforeseen situation may arise where this advice will come in useful.

Secondly, we would like to come back to our proposal about the safety signs, of which you find a copy in attachment. These signs are standardized signs which warn tourist not to swim when there are no lifeguards. Therefore they can be used at designated swimming areas as well as signs where swimming is forbidden. Basically the sign is saying: "There is danger, since there can be dangerous currents, so if there are no lifeguards, stay out, and if they are there, keep to certain precautions."

As you know from the TV documentary we have shown you, we have provided the beaches of Port St John with safety signs. This project was supported by the local lifesaving club as well as the local municipality. We would now like to expand this project to all the touristic beaches on the Wild Coast. For the ones which fall under the ECPTA mandate, we would like to ask for your permission and help. For the beaches which are not situated in parks, we are

fortunate to be able to count on the help from Life Saving clubs, the Round table in Mthata and the backpacker's along the coast. But for the beaches in the parks we suggested your institution to partner with us for the putting of the signs.

Since you couldn't give us a decision on this during our meeting, we would like to ask if you have already discussed this with your colleagues. If you don't agree with the design, we could adapt it to your own style to make it more suitable for the parks. As we suggested, we could provide the signs to you, even free of charge. The Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency could then assign a team with the duty to set up the signs, ideally on the beaches or on the entrance ways to the beach. But if it would be difficult to organize this, we could also erect the signs ourselves, with your permission. The Agency could indicate to us the best spots for the signs to be put so they would only interfere minimally with the natural surroundings.

Please discuss our proposal and give us your constructive feedback.

If safe coastal tourism is a concern to you, we are your partner.

We would appreciate it very much if the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, or even the Province of the Eastern Cape Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, could give us some response regarding the safety signs project.

Regards,

Bart Verheyden
Vice Chairman Safe Coastal Tourism NPO

25th March 2013