

SOUTH AFRICA ANNEX X. DLIST SUMMARY REPORT HAMBURG

Hamburg has a total population of around 3000 people. People in the area are highly dependent on the natural resources through small scale farming and fishing. The community is situated along the western shores, and next to the mouth of the Keiskamma River. The estuary is stated in the South African Coastal Green Paper as a place of high importance with marshes that are still able to filter water naturally.

The Keiskamma estuary is flanked by dense coastal scrub forest on both eastern and western shores. This dense forest belt stretches inland for about a kilometre. The local community's extraction of firewood and building materials from the forests has had a large impact on these forests. Historically, the forest stretched much further inland. Gently rising slopes around the estuary is mainly covered with lush grassland. Valleys carry remnants of what appear to be valley bushveld vegetation.

The estuary is considered by some as one of the important estuaries in South Africa with extensive salt marshes along its floodplains. Large numbers of fish fry enter the estuary annually from the ocean to make use of the rich sheltered waters. Soil erosion upstream has a huge effect on the turbidity of the river waters. The large silt load has an important impact on estuarine and near shore life. There are extensive sandstone reefs all along the shoreline, creating a very favourable habitat for marine life in the inshore areas. The beach has large expanses of white sandy beaches with beautiful sand dunes close to the coastal forest fringe (see Figure 37). There are two plantations visible behind the dune forest just west of the village.



Figure 37: Beach and sand dune vegetation in Hamburg

A narrow road behind the dunes leads to the Umtana River estuary. This is a very scenic drive and could form part of a circular hiking trail between Hamburg and Umtana. In general, the sand dunes and beach area around Hamburg are very beautiful and have a high potential for coastal tourism activities.

The community in Hamburg have many stakeholders that are interested in how the marine and coastal resources are managed. These stakeholders include;

- i. The community in Hamburg, including the following associations;
 - a. Fishers' Association
 - b. Farmers' Association
 - c. Parents and teachers' Association
 - d. Youth groups
 - e. Church groups
 - f. Local business Association
- ii. The Keiskamma Trust (a local NGO);
- iii. Local Government (such as the Mayor and the local councillors);
- iv. Holiday makers and outside holiday house owners;

- v. The Angling Club (which includes members from outside Hamburg that come to this area to enjoy the fishing);
- vi. The administration and management of the Hamburg Nature Reserve;
- vii. The Department of Marine and Coastal Management;
- viii. Aspire (a consultancy firm that has been very active in the area, registered as the Amatole Economic Development Agency)

1.1 Can the marine and coastal resources support the community?

A rapid evaluation was done of the conservation possibilities of the Hamburg coastline. There runs a band of dense coastal shrub forest stretching between the Keiskamma and Umtana River estuaries. In the protected area behind the dune system there is an area of low thorny bushveld vegetation. A small herd of domestic goats were noted grazing in the thornveld to the west of a small blue gum plantation. The coastline has a series of flat rocky shelves, (probably sandstone) that erodes away to provide interlinking rock pools that are exposed at low tide. These rocky shelves and rock pool system provides many habitat opportunities for vegetation that is favoured by the energy-rich shore environment such as *Hypnea spicifera* and *spicata*. Lush patches of *Plocamium* were also visible in places. The community members pointed out oyster beds and *Haliotis* Transkei abalone, a smaller version than the Cape abalone. During the beach visits, a number of bryozoans and colonial tunicates washed up on the shore were noted. These indicators point to an energy-rich system that has the potential to support rich fish life.

Recreational anglers found on the beach were angling for Shark and Cod as well as Yellowtail. A notable absence on the shore is the presence of black mussels. The whole system (marine, shore and dune forest) should be managed as a unit to unlock the potential effectively. This natural area has great ecotourism potential if planned and managed properly. The landscape combined with the human resource potential and the historical features on the landscape can be turned into a potentially successful tourism destination.

The vast majority of community members in Hamburg are poor and marginalised. The community members raised issues such as difficulties to obtain fishing permits as a

limitation to how they can support themselves off the rich marine and coastal resources in the area. Many of the women on Hamburg use to support themselves by collecting oysters and abalone. Since it has been forbidden and the controls have become stricter, the community has lost this income generating activity and this is seen as a big problem. Some community members also reported that there are outsiders,

Hamburg demonstration site at a glance...

In April 2010 the DLIST team visited the site for the first time. At the initial community meeting the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs was present together with other high ranking officials to show that the Government of South Africa supports the initiative. A second field trip occurred in July 2010. The DLIST team has thus far included marine biologists, EIA specialists, LED specialists, a coastal protected area specialist, stakeholder involvement specialists and tourism specialists. There has been one public meeting, which resulted in the selection of a planning committee that has been working with the DLIST team. A total of 190 individual interviews were done, and one public meeting and 9 interest group meetings and a film festival have been conducted thus far. Organisations involved include the Ministry of Water Environmental Affairs and other Government departments like the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). The DLIST team mainly worked with the Forestry and Marine and Coastal Management divisions under DAFF and the following community based groups: Abalone group, fishers group, local business association, tourism operators. Private sector involvement included the angling club and, holiday home owners and NGOs included, 2540 Finishing College, Keiskamma Trust Art Project, and ASPIRE.

carrying out illegal and organised abalone farming in the area and they suggest that by giving the community members permits to harvest abalone on a sustainable level while increasing the law enforcement it would actually reduce the pressure on this valuable resource while contributing to the well-being of the local community.

Some people in Hamburg reported that they have been seeing big changes in the environment. They say that the structure of the beach is changing every few years, with very big sand dunes building up in areas which used to be perfect recreational areas and flat beach. They don't know why this situation has changed, but people seem to think that the wind pattern has somehow changed over the years, bringing more sand to the Hamburg area.

In general, the people in the community in Hamburg have a slightly negative attitude towards the marine conservation efforts in the area. The community doesn't see the benefits of conservation which they view as simply putting restrictions on what they are allowed to do and what not. Many people also said that the system is unfair and favours outsiders rather than small local operators/people when it comes to giving people temporary permits to fish, drive on the beach or other activities that are normally restricted inside the Nature Reserve. It is important that the Hamburg Nature Reserve works closely with the community members and undertakes more educational activities and actively involve people from the community in the conservation activities. How some people from the outside can get permits to arrange fishing competitions or drive on the beach, while community members are not allowed to engage in these activities should also be closely looked into with the authorities giving these permits.

1.2 Alternative livelihoods options leading to poverty reduction

When meeting with stakeholder groups and conducting individual interviews with people in the community, they were asked to list alternative livelihoods options. In Hamburg the options identified by the community members are listed in Table 23 below.

Table 23: List of alternative livelihoods options identified by the community in Hamburg

| Alternative livelihood | Activities | Notes |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Tourism | Local Bed and Breakfast opportunities for community members | In high season there often is no accommodation available and, although the indigenous culture is interesting to tourists no cultural B&Bs are available |
| | Fishing guides | Local fishermen, of which there are many, know the best fishing areas and can be honorary wardens |
| | Tour guides | Fishing Bird watching Hiking companions Cultural tour guides |
| | Hiking trails | Beach hike mouth to mouth /estuary to estuary Coastal forests meander through the coastal dune thicket forest |
| | Boat trips upriver | The river is navigable for at least 6 km. Small boat tourism trips upriver will be a good experience. Rural landscapes with large salt marshes and water birds make this possibility reasonably attractive |
| | Xhosa traditional hut home stay | Here is opportunity and even possibly a local operator for creating traditional Xhosa huts along the trails where hikers can experience local traditional Sleep on reed mat, Xhosa food and cultural opportunities. |
| Agriculture | Cattle farming | The conditions for cattle are quite favourable and it would bring good additional income |
| | Goat farming | It is not very common with goat farming in this area today and it could be combined with processing of goats milk for cheese etc |

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|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| | Vegetable gardens (tunnel farming) | New methods would improve the productivity |
| | Beekeeping | Honey is a popular product both locally and for tourists etc. Beekeeping and honey production would therefore bring additional income |
| | Poultry | Some women suggested that they can keep chickens in cooperatives and put them up for sale |
| Arts and crafts | Existing programmes | Keiskamma Trust (doing good work) Aspire (not yet in operation) |
| | New possibilities. | Pottery. Traditional pots for the interior decorating Reed mats and reed baskets, could also be good products that can be used by locals as well as sold to tourists |
| Building / industrial opportunities | Brick making | If the right material is available, it would be relatively easy to set up a brick making facility which could bring income and create jobs |
| Financial and business services | Bank or ATMs | People say the lack of these services hinders tourism |
| | Mini Spar or ShopRite. | Before a project like this is initiated it will be necessary to carry out a thorough market analysis to assess the need |
| | Small butchery at local market area | |
| Infrastructure and housing | Road upgrade | The road to Hamburg is in a bad shape and it would do a lot for the development of the town if it was improved |
| | Sewerage disposal facility | Much needed to avoid pollution of the sensitive coastal and estuary environment |
| | Additional housing for officials eg.MCM | |
| | Need for more land for development | Many of the proposed interventions need available land to become a reality – i.e. goat and chicken farming |
| | Additional electricity for those who do not have. | |
| | Solar power and wind generated electricity | Alternative and renewable energy solutions should always be considered. For Hamburg it is foreseen that wind power in particular has great potential |
| Other opportunities | Collecting natural sea salt | Could bring income and job opportunities for uneducated community members |
| | Collecting sea shells for collectors | Could bring income and job opportunities for uneducated community members |

These alternative livelihoods options have not been ranked or listed in order of priority. But a SWOT analysis of the identified alternative livelihood opportunities was conducted. In this analysis, also possible interventions to address these issues were included. See Table 24 for more detail.

Table 24: SWOT analysis for the identified alternative livelihood options for Hamburg, including possible interventions.

| Alternative Livelihood | Strength | Weakness | Opportunities | Threats | Intervention |
|------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Tourism | Beautiful landscape Peace and Quiet Rich Estuary Close to big centres and airport Available labour Community needs it Available skills in the community | Poor infrastructure Insufficient accommodation Unskilled potential operators/business people Lack of capital to start small businesses Lack of training facilities Lack of supporting tourism facilities | Community interest Available labour Young community members with some language skills | Lack of trained community members Unbridled development Bad roads Poaching/Overuse of resources Lack of law enforcement Lack of service station facilities for motorists Alcohol abuse Loss of tranquillity | Availability of capital for boats canoes Training of tour guides/B&B operators Creation of links with known tourism operators such as Drifters, Kayak Africa Creation of local a community market Upgrading of municipal public facilities and service contracts for maintenance Road upgrade |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | DLIST training and service hub Effective control of resource use Creation of an effective local tourism development agency |
| Agriculture | Healthy cattle stock Tradition of stock farming Cultural links with farming | Lack of land Insufficient water resources Lack of specialized knowledge Lack of identified market Identification of optimum farming products | Additional state land Integrated chicken/pig/fish/vegetable farming Products delivered to local market when established Wood for fires and building | Lack of applicable knowledge Drought, Traditional farming methods Soil erosion Overpopulation Too small land allotments | Get agricultural/mariculture experts to make assessment of opportunities |
| Business | Known community needs Proximity to big centres Potential of increased tourism visitors | Relatively small customer base Low average income in community Proximity to bigger centres Experience and understanding of business principles | Ferry service Banking facility Operation of booking service Service station Tourism support services | Proximity to big centres Opening of big chain stores Crime Bad roads | Training principles and “tricks of the trade” through DLIST Business plan concepts and operations training |
| Construction | Number of semi skilled labourers in village Relatively cheap labour available | Not enough land for development Capital for development | Road building Repairs to municipal infrastructure Construction of traditional huts for tourism opportunities | Lack of local opportunities Lack of supervisory skills | Training through DLIST Training at school level |
| Conservation | Local environment relatively undisturbed High biodiversity Sea, beach, estuary, forests and grasslands Community willingness to conserve Hamburg Nature Reserve head office Conservation legislation Relative abundance of marine organisms | Ineffective law enforcement Multiple agencies involved Lack of effective equipment | Possible local conservation area Possible environmental education at schools during normal school holidays Involve local subsistence fishers as conservation support | Overpopulation Poaching/overfishing Destruction of forest for firewood. Lack of effective law enforcement Upstream dam Mariculture in inappropriate places | Estuary management plan and management committee Appointment of local estuary manager Specialist training of conservation staff Creation of a gazetted conservation area Perhaps a local community conservation area |

1.3 Weaknesses and opportunities for sustainable community development

Through discussions with local communities and different stakeholder groups in the community, a number of weaknesses/issues that hinder good development in Hamburg were identified. Below is a list of some of the issues raised:

- Poor municipal infrastructure and services;
- Unclear and or conflicting government department interactions and roles ;
- Poaching and compliance monitoring problems;
- Lack of subsistence fisheries permits;
- Lack of tourism facilities;
- Lack of local businesses to serve community needs;
- Land Issues;
- Availability of state land for development;
- The issue of buying buildings/houses on state land;
- Availability of state land for agriculture;
- Lack of resources;
- Bad community relationships;
- Lack of tourism opportunities and activities.

1.4 Bottom-up and top-down communication

Official communication in Hamburg is mainly done through the local municipality and announcements made in schools. If there is for example an important meeting, the local municipality is contacted and they make announcements through a loud speaker so that the local people will receive the information and may attend the meeting. In other cases, people communicate important news through word of mouth or by posting announcements on signboards in the village. In general people complain that communication is not always effective and better ways of communication should be sought.

The DLIST team can work with the community to invest effective protocols by which two-way communication can be established and maintained. It is important that the people on the ground can formulate their agendas and clearly spell out problems, and that they then find ways of communicating it to the relevant authorities in government departments. It is admirable that the Deputy Minister and Chief Director visited Hamburg, and this showed commitment and the interest of the government in the community. However, such visits are clearly not enough.

One option that has been suggested is to place a “DLIST node” in Hamburg. A DLIST node can be one or two computers with internet connection placed at a strategic point in the village to give as many people as possible access to this facility. Not only will they be able to access up to date information from the government, but they may also use it and learn more about the DLIST ASCLME Project and marine and coastal issues in general. A place where people can get access to a computer and internet will also contribute greatly to the education of the community in Hamburg, by making people computer literate and give them access to a wide range of information available on the internet. During the next eighteen month such communication mechanisms will be investigated and, as far as possible be put into practise so they are in place for ASCLME Project implementation.

The Hamburg community is typical of a number of predominantly Xhosa speaking communities along the Eastern Cape coastline in South Africa. Communities in which replication of successful interventions may be possible will be listed in the Final Report.

