

**25 August 2025**

**iSIMANGALISO CONGRATULATE AND WELCOME RECENTLY APPOINTED EXECUTIVE MANAGER: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

The CEO of iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority, Mr. SE Bukhosini would like to congratulate and welcome recently appointed Executive Manager: Biodiversity Conservation, **Mr. Siboniso Edward Mbense**.



**Mr Siboniso Edward Mbense** is appointed as the new **Executive Manager Biodiversity Conservation**. His career spanned over 18 years’ experience and has been in a senior management position for a period of 10 years within the biodiversity conservation space. His role at iSimangaliso as a Senior Environmental Planner has been the environmental planning, development of environmental tools to assist in decision making, reviewing, and deciding on permits in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act and the Regulations for the Proper Administration of World Heritage Sites.

He has worked for iSimangaliso for a period of 10 years. Mr Mbense has been an Acting Executive Manager Biodiversity since November 2024, where he was responsible for overseeing the biodiversity conservation unit at iSimangaliso.

In his previous sub-unit, he dealt with engagements with external clients on spatial planning and environmental planning matters such as the uMkhanyakude District Municipality and the local municipalities within uMkhanyakude, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Oceanographic Research Institute, and the National and Provincial environmental Departments.

Recently he has been responsible for the project management of the review of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, proposed 10-year Integrated Management Plan which was approved by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment.  He has worked for various government departments, including National Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment as a Deputy Director-Integrated Environmental Authorisation, and the KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs as a Control Environmental Officer.

Mr Siboniso Edward Mbense holds a Bachelor of Social Science Degree in Geography and Environmental Management from the University of KwaZulu Natal.

iSimangaliso congratulate Mr. Mbense and wishing him all the best in new endeavours.

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**Statement issued by iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority**

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