WILDTRUST™

uThukela

SESSION PACK

SESSION PACK CONTENTS PAGE – uThukela Marine Protected Area (MPA)

- **SESSION PLAN: WHAT MAKES UTHUKELA SPECIAL**
- **EDUCATIONAL VIDEO LINKS: WHAT MAKES UTHUKELA SPECIAL**
- **ACTIVITY: POSTCARDS**
- **ANNEXURE 1 - ASSOCIATED SESSION PLAN BREAKDOWN FOR RELEVANT READING AND COLOURING IN PAGES FOR "HARRY THE HAMMERHEAD" VOLUME ONE**

MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR SESSION

- Art materials
- Blank postcards (provided below) - one per person

SESSION PLAN: What makes uThukela special

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

- The objective of this session is for learners to understand and appreciate the beauty and offerings of the uThukela Marine Protected Area (MPA).

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

- Ask the learners what they think makes uThukela so special – write these answers down on the board.
- Show the learners what makes uThukela special video: https://tinyurl.com/39j49vm7

Have a brief discussion about this special place:

The uThukela MPA, nestled in northern KwaZulu-Natal and named after the uThukela River that flows from the Drakensberg mountains, was proclaimed as a MPA in recognition of its amazing unique natural features. The rich, soft, muddy sediment banks produced over the ages by the uThukela river silt-loads are home to diverse sea creatures with new species recently discovered offshore and vibrant soft coral and sponge-dominated deep reefs dotted along ancient shorelines.

The uThukela MPA is Important as a habitat for prawns and threatened fish species. This area is a valuable fishery support tool and protects critically endangered species such as hammerhead sharks and seahorses. With amazing long sandy beaches and scattered rocky shores, the coast of this MPA is excised by nine estuaries, with important mangroves, saltmarshes, seagrasses, and swamp forests. In this MPA, carbon sinks into undisturbed deep organic sediments, sequestration of blue carbon into soft corals and sponges on reefs and estuarine-associated habitats, and coastal protection with high vegetated dune cordons therefore, the uThukela MPA is a valuable tool in the fight against climate change and mitigation of impacts on the people who depend on these natural assets for resilient livelihoods and diverse opportunities.

MAIN ACTIVITY:

- Learners are to get creative in explaining/describing what makes uThukela special to them; they could create a poem, song, dance, play, poster, cartoon, story, presentation, art piece, etc., allow them to be creative. Learners can work individually, in pairs, or in groups, let them decide.
- Allow each of the groups to present their creation.

CLOSING ACTIVITY:

- Learners write a postcard to a pen pal/ friend in iSimangaliso describing what makes uThukela special and why they might like to come and visit (*see ACTIVITY provided below).*

FOLLOW UP SUGGESTIONS:

- Take the learners on an exploration in uThukela.

ACTIVITY: POSTCARDS

Send a post card to a pen pal describing what makes uThukela Special!

You can use one side for an illustration and one for writing

Cut here around the border

fold along the dotted line and glue the two backsides together

Post Card

uThukela MPA

ANNEXURE 1

Associated session plan breakdown for relevant reading and colouring in pages for “Harry the hammerhead” volume one – uThukela community

Session Title	Harry the Hammerhead Shark Spreads the good news (volume 1) reading page numbers	Colouring in page numbers
Intro to oceans session (pre survey)		None
Harry the Hammerhead session	Read pages 1-32	1, 2 & 3
Coelacanth session	Read pages 1-7	4 & 5
Sea Turtle session	Read pages 8-11	6
Coral Reefs session	Read pages 12-15	7
What makes uThukela special session	**Read pages 16-19**	**8 & 9**
Marine food webs session	Read pages 20-23	10, 11 & 12
Shark session	Read pages 24-27	13 & 14
Whale session	Read pages 28-29	15
Benefits of MPA's session (post survey)	Read pages 30-32	16