

## INTRODUCTION

In his book, *Cry the beloved country*, Alan Paton aptly describes the beauty and landscape of this province:

*“There is a lovely road that runs from Ixopo into the hills. These hills are grass-covered and rolling, and they are lovely beyond any singing of it. The road climbs seven miles into them, to Carisbrooke; and from there, if there is no mist, you look down on one of the fairest valleys of Africa. About you there is grass and bracken and you may hear the forlorn crying of the titihoya, one of the birds of the veld. Below you is the valley of the Umzimkulu, on its journey from the Drakensberg to the sea; and beyond and behind the river, great hill after great hill; and beyond and behind them, the mountains of Ingeli and East Griqualand. “*

The English term for KwaZulu is Zululand, or also known as the “Land of the Zulu”, the “Garden Province” with lush, green, rolling hills and commonly abbreviated to “KZN”. **KwaZulu** means “*Place of the people of heaven* ” and **Natal**, is derived from the name bestowed by the Portuguese explorer, Vasco da Gama, meaning “*Christmas*”.

In the 1830s, the southern part was called *Natalia*, the name of a Boer Republic that was short lived. When it came under British control, it was known as *the British Colony of Natal* in the 1940s. To the north was the *Kingdom of Zululand*, which remained independent until 1879, where after it was also annexed by the British.

Before 1994, it was known as the **Province of Natal**, one of the four provinces of the Union and then the Republic of South Africa. Today, it also includes all the territory of the previous Bantustan, KwaZulu, created under the Apartheid regime.

It is located along the shoreline of the Indian ocean, with the warm Mozambique current, making it a very popular holiday destination in the country, with its sandy beaches and warm water.

## COAT OF ARMS



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### Coat of arms of KwaZulu-Natal

#### Motto

“Masisukume Sakhe”

This is isiZulu for  
"Let Us Stand Up and Build".  
"Peace, Unity and Prosperity".

- The two symbols of KwaZulu and Natal, the **wildebeest** and **lion**, were chosen when the two regions was united as KZN.
- **The Drakensberg** is represented by the zig-zag stripe.

#### The star has a dual meaning:

- It refers to the naming of the coastline by Vasco da Gama on Christmas day in 1497, calling it “Natalia”.
- It accommodates the Zulu myth that the Zulu people are "*people of heaven*" or "*star people*".
- The province’s beauty is depicted by the **strelitzia flower** on the shield.
- The assegai and knobkerrie behind the shield represent peace and protection.
- Wisdom and maturity are associated with the headring (worn by Zulu elders) and forms the base of the crown.
- The crown itself resembles a round grass hut built in the Zulu style.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Area	92 100 km <sup>2</sup>
% of total area	7.6%
Population (Mid-year Estimates, 2006)	9 924 000
Languages (SA Yearbook 06-07)	isiZulu 80,9% English 13,6% IsiXhosa 2.3% Afrikaans 1,5%
Races	Black (85.3%) Asian (8.5%) White (4.7%) Coloured (1.5%)
Unemployment rate (Labour Force Survey, March 2006)	29,9% (the second-highest in the country).
Capital	Pietermaritzburg
Largest city	Durban
Premier	S'bu Ndebele (ANC)

## MUNICIPALITIES AND DISTRICTS

Kwa-Zulu Natal is divided into 11 districts. One of these, eThekweni, is a metropolitan municipality and the other 10 are district municipalities.

- Amajuba
- Zululand
- Umkhanyakude
- uThungulu
- Umzinyathi
- Uthukela
- Umgungundlovu
- iLembe
- eThekweni
- Ugu
- Sisonke

For the purpose of this course, the different Tourist Regions have been chosen as an introduction to the Province:

- Battlefields
- Drakensberg
- Midlands
- East Griqualand
- South Coast
- eThekweni metropole and surrounds
- Sugar Coast
- Dolphin Coast
- Zululand
- Maputaland

### “A Memory like an elephant”

*If you use your imagination, the outline of Kwa-Zulu Natal slightly resembles that of an elephant head with its trunk elevated (and you might even see the wee smile!) The “trunk” section is Maptutaland, and the coastal line known as the **Elephant coast**. The region also includes the **Tembe Elephant Park**. The **Ethekwini Metropole (including Durban)** is situated more or less at the throat/mouth section (see 4). One could also maybe say that the **Battlefields** appears to be an elephant’s ear (see 9), while **Zululand** presents the “eyes” of Shaka’s spies or more recently, looking at Zulu history and traditions in this region (see number 8). Well, for the rest, make up your own story!*



## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

The seat of KwaZulu-Natal's provincial government is in Pietermaritzburg.

The African National Congress (ANC) holds power in the provincial legislature, although they won the province by a very small margin in the 2004 elections. Their chief opponents were the Inkatha Freedom Party, in alliance with the Democratic Alliance.

Legislative seats (2004 elections)	Party
38	African National Congress (ANC)
30	Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)
7	Democratic Alliance (DA)
2	African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP)
2	Minority Front (MF)
1	United Democratic Movement (UDM)
80	TOTAL

This is also the only province where the Constitution makes provision for a monarchy. The current Zulu monarch is King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu. He does not hold any direct political power, but has considerable authority over the more traditional Zulu in the province. He is given a monthly salary by the government.

## GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF THE LANDSCAPE

### The province has three different geographic areas (topography):

- **A Lowland Region** along the Indian Ocean, which is narrow in the south, but much wider towards the north. The coastal regions are typically **subtropical thickets** and deep ravines, and some **Afromontane Forest** > occurs on steep slopes.
- **The Natal Midlands** is centrally located on a plateau with rolling hills, rising towards the west. The vegetation is mostly **moist grasslands** and isolated patches of **Afromontane Forest**. To the north it is mainly **moist savanna habitat**.
- **Two mountainous areas**, that of the **KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg** (also known as “the Berg”) in the west and to the east, the **Lebombo Mountains**.
  - The Drakensberg was formed through volcanic working and consists of solid walls of basalt. This area hosts mainly alpine grassland.
  - The Lebombo Mountains are ancient granite mountains forming low parallel ranges, running southwards to Swaziland.

### The main rivers

South Africa’s most important watershed is created by the Maloti Mountains (Lesotho), KwaZulu-Natal and Free State Drakensberg, and is also referred to as “the cradle of rivers”. It gives rise to South Africa’s major rivers in the region. The Orange River (Gariiep) and tributaries mainly drain the Lesotho highlands, the Eastern Cape watershed, feeds either the Orange River or the Umzimvubu River, the latter flowing into the Indian Ocean at Port St. Johns. In KwaZulu-Natal, many rivers and streams from the Drakensberg drain into the catchment areas of the largest rivers in the province, all flowing into the Indian Ocean.

The water is normally pollution and disease free, seeing that there are no inhabitants living in the higher reaches of the mountain.

### **The three largest rivers in the province**

<b>River</b>	<b>Place where it flows into the ocean</b>
Thukela/ Tugela (largest)	North of KwaDukuza (Stanger)
Mkhomazi /Umkomaas	South of Amanzimtoti
Mzimkhulu/Umzimkulu	Port Shepstone (South Coast)

### Other major rivers in the province

River	Place where it flows into the ocean
Phongola	Northern boundry of the Province
Umfolozi	South of St.Lucia
Umhlatuze	Richards Bay / Empangeni
Umvoti	KwaDukuza (Stanger)
Umgeni	Durban
Umtamvuna	Port Edward, athe the southern border of the province

### Other rivers include the following:

Umkuzi; Umlaas; Illovo; Umtamvuna; Umlalazi; Amatikulu; Sinkwazi; Nonoti; Umhlali; Tongaat; Umhloti; Umhlatuzan; Umbilo; Umbogintwini; Amazimtoti; Amahlongwa; Umpanbinyoni; Umzinto; Ifafa; Umtwalumi; Umzumbi and the Imbezana.



## CLIMATE

The climate in the KwaZulu-Natal is diverse due to the varying topography.

### **Coastal regions**

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A hot and humid, subtropical summer-rainfall area. The winters are quite pleasant. Further north, from Durban towards Mozambique, the climate becomes tropical. The Zululand north coast has the highest humidity and warmest climate in the province.

Annual rainfall	1009 mm
Daytime maximum (January – March)	21-28° C
Daytime minimum (June – August)	11-23° C

### **Midlands**

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The interior becomes progressively colder towards the north, with snow on the higher regions. The summers are usually quite hot, although not as humid as the coastal regions, but winter temperatures can be significantly low.

For example, the temperature in Pietermaritzburg, is more or less the same as Durban in summer, but much colder in the winter. Another example is Ladysmith, with day temperatures in summer peaking at 30° C, but winter evenings can drop to below freezing point.

The KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, between the coastal strip and the southern Drakensberg Escarpment, are drier.

### **The Mountainous areas**

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Occasional snow in the summer, but the Drakensberg experience heavy snow in winter.

## NATURE AND CONSERVATION

KwaZulu-Natal is a wildlife paradise.

<i>www.kznwildlife.com</i>	Recorded species in the province
Birds	693
Terrestrial mammals	165
Marine mammals	28
Crocodiles	1
Snakes	78
Terrapins	4
Tortoise	4
Turtles	5
Amphibians	75
Freshwater fish	79
Butterflies	382
Trees	708
Cycads	11

**The Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (EKZN Wildlife)**, controls more than a 100 Nature Reserves in KwaZulu-Natal, including the following:

- St Lucia Wilderness (World heritage site)
- uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park
- Hluhluwe-Umfolosi
- Mkuzi
- Itala
- Oribi Gorge

### **Honorary Officers (Rangers)**

Thirty years ago, the Natal Parks Board accepted the offer of the public (who were interested in conserving nature for future generations) to assist them. Today, Honorary Officer, as they have become known, still plays an important role in participating in Conservation in the province. They work over weekends or busy periods, providing skills and service, all of this without any remuneration.

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES RAMSAR

- A World Heritage Site is an area that is deemed to have exceptional universal value: One of a kind in the world.
- A valuable cultural or natural place that must be protected because if it disappeared, there would be no such examples of it in the world.
- It is protected and preserved against threats of changing social and economic conditions and natural decay.

- **iSimangaliso Wetland Park** (previously, Greater St. Lucia Wetlands Park) World heritage site, consists of lakes, islands and estuaries and five ecosystems (*For more information see Module 11, Maputaland, St.Lucia*).
- **The Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park**, renowned for its rock art collection (*For more information see Module 5, Drakensberg region*).

## RAMSAR WETLANDS

- These are declared in terms of the “Conservation on Wetlands of International Importance”, especially as waterfowl habitat.
- This was framed together in the city of RAMSAR in Iran, February 1971. This led to the shortening of the name to the RAMSAR Convention.

Six of the nineteen Ramsar Wetland sites in South Africa, occur in KwaZulu-Natal.

- Kosi Bay
- Lake Sibaya
- Natal Drakensberg Park
- Ndumo Game Reserve
- St.Lucia System
- Turtle Beaches/ Coral Reefs of Tongaland

## SOME ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS FACING THE PROVINCE

- Increase in population and housing (i.e. large developments along the South Coast), as well as overgrazing by sheep, goats and cattle, are transforming the landscape.
- Grasslands have been replaced by sugarcane fields and tree plantations, impacting on the wildlife in the area. Furthermore, the exotic tree plantations (requiring an excess of water compared to that of the natural vegetation), have reduced the flow in rivers, causing estuaries to silt up.
- Water and air pollution remains a major problem, especially in industrial areas and informal settlements

## ECONOMY

### Agriculture

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In the previous KwaZulu-Bantustan and in the rural areas today, a subsistence economy is based on corn growing and cattle raising.

#### Coastal belt

- **Sugar-cane plantations:** Grow along the Indian Ocean coastal belt. It is the main produce of this area and the main contributor to the economy of the province.  
**Bagas -** byproduct of sugarcane and used to manufacture high glossy paper for calendars..
- **Subtropical fruit**

#### Interior

- Vegetables
- Dairy – and stock farming
- Game ranching
- **Forestry:** around Vryheid, Eshowe, Richmond, Harding and Ngome.
- **Tea Plantations :** Ngome

### Mining

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The province is not rich in minerals, but resources of coal are mined in the northern areas, around:

- **Dundee**
- **Glencoe**
- **Vryheid.**
- **Newcastle**

### Industries

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In recent times, the province has undergone rapid industrialisation owing to its abundant water supply and labour resources. Industries are mainly concentrated at Newcastle, Ladysmith, Dundee, Richards Bay, Durban, Hammarsdale, Richmond, Pietermaritzburg and Mandeni.

The Sugar refining is the most important industry in the province. Textile, clothing, rubber, fertilizer, paper, vehicle assembly and food-processing plants, tanneries, and oil refineries are located in and around Durban.

**Richards Bay**

- The centre of South Africa's Aluminium industry.
- Aluminium smelter
- **The Richards Bay Coal Terminal** exports coal, ranking South Africa second as an exporter of seam coal.
- **Richards Bay Minerals** is the largest sand-mining and mineral-processing operation in the world.

**Escourt**

- Meat processing
- Stocking factory.

**The motor vehicle-manufacturing industry**

- Created a considerable multiplier effect in component- and service-providers.
- The automotive leather industry has grown rapidly, with exports significantly increasing foreign-exchange earnings

**Tourism**

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- After sugar cane, it is the second largest industry. The north and south coast is a popular destination for local tourists. The annual Tourism Indaba also attracts many people, locals and foreigners. Cultural tourism

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Transport

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The King Shaka International Airport to be built, 30km north of Durban at La Mercy, will be an integrated passenger and freight airport. It will replace the Durban International Airport.

Furthermore, the city is well linked by rail and bus services to other major cities and is the busiest port for tourism.

### Housing, water and electricity supply

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In June 2007 the “*Prevention of Slumbill*” was passed by the Department of Housing (KZN provincial parliament). *The Bill compels landowners to evict shackdwellers on the threat of arrest and criminalises resistance to evictions.* The aim is to clear Kwa-Zulu Natal of slums by 2010. Academics, human rights organisations and civil society alike, highly criticise the bill. The shack dwellers' movement Abahlali base Mjondolo is planning mass mobilizing against the Bill and is also taking the matter to the Constitutional Court with support from a pro bono legal centre.

### Education and schools

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According to the 2001 Census, 22.9% of the population in the province, aged 20 years or more, have received no education, while only 4.8% have higher education.

Famous boy schools include Hilton College and Michaelhouse.

#### Higher institutions

- University of KwaZulu-Natal merger of the University of Natal and the University of Durban-Westville
- University of Zululand
- Durban University of Technology merger of ML Sultan Technikon and Natal Technikon
- Mangosuthu Technikon
- Inkamana High School

## SPORTS

The 2010 Soccer World Cup semifinals will be hosted in Durban and R1.6 billion has been put aside by the eThekweni Municipality, the National government and the South African Football Association to build the King Senzangakhona Stadium. The stadium will seat 70 000 people and it is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

### Famous sports events

**Comrades Marathon**- An annual marathon run between Pietermaritzburg and Durban  
**Midmar Mile** - A mile long swimming race held annually at Midmar Dam

**Dusi Canoe Marathon**- An annual canoe marathon, starting in Pietermaritzburg and ending in Durban

**“Durban July” horse race**

### Provincial teams

Competition	Team	Achievement
Premier Soccer League (PSL)	Amazulu (Durban) Golden Arrows, also from Durban Maritzburg United, from Pietermaritzburg	
Super 14 (rugby)	Sharks	In 2007, for the first time in this competition, two South African teams were in the finals. The Sharks lost to the Bulls after a nail biting match.
Currie Cup	“Natal Sharks”, not to be confused with the “Sharks” above.	The team has also performed well in this series this last couple of years.
SuperSport Series (SA’s domestic competition)	The “Dolphins” who succeeded “KwaZulu Natal”	

## ROUTES AND ORIENTATION

### **Routes from the interior**

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- The **N3 toll road** from Gauteng and the Free State, enters KwaZulu-Natal at Van Reenen's Pass.
- The **N11** exits Mpumalanga to Charlestown towards Ladysmith where it joins the **N3**.
- The **N2** starts from Ermelo in Mpumalanga, enters KwaZulu-Natal at Pongola, from where it continues south to Durban and along the South Coast. At Port Shepstone, the road turns inland to Kokstad, from where it starts its long journey through the Eastern Province, all the way down to Cape Town.

### **Other important routes**

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Two alternative routes from Mpumalanga to the Province, are the **R34** and the **R33**. The first leaves the N11 just before Newcastle, on route to Utrecht and Vryheid, then south to Empangeni and Richard's Bay. The **R33**, enters the Province at Paul Pietersburg, via Dundee, Greytown to KwaDukuza (on the **N2**).



### **Resources and further reading**

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### **Visits and photos**

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