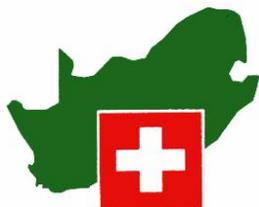




**THE POTENTIAL FOR A COMMUNITY-BASED ANGLER
GUIDING SERVICE ON THE PONGOLAPOORT DAM
IN NORTHERN KWAZULU-NATAL**



RHODES UNIVERSITY

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Prepared for

Swiss South African Cooperative Initiative

Prepared by

**Rural Fisheries Programme
Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science
Rhodes University**

Authors

J. Alletson - Q. Rouhani - C.L.W. Jones

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CONTACT DETAILS

Mr. Q. Rouhani
Programme Manager
Rural Fisheries Programme
Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science
Rhodes University
P.O. Box 94
Grahamstown, 6140

E-mail: q.rouhani@ru.ac.za

Phone: 046 6362 230

Fax: 046 6224 827

Cell-phone: 082 6419 921

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pongolapoort Dam is situated in the northern parts of rural KwaZulu-Natal, where unemployment and poverty continue to persist in the previously disadvantaged communities in the area. Pongolapoort Dam attracts hundreds of affluent recreational sport fishers to the area on the weekends during the summer month. A large portion of the Pongolapoort Dam shorelines belongs to local previously disadvantaged communities. Even though these communities have access to the resource, currently almost none of the income generated from the sport fishery accrues to the local rural communities. This resulted in the initiative to investigate the need and viability of a community-based angler guiding service on Pongolapoort Dam.

Recreational sport fishing is a huge industry in South Africa. On a national level the sport falls under the Ministry of Sport and Recreation; there is a well entrenched infrastructure with most clubs falling under angling leagues and unions. There are over 80 registered angling clubs in KwaZulu-Natal Province alone. Different clubs tend to focus on specific fishing methods or species, for example, flyfishing for trout or bass fishing. Recreational fishing on the Pongolapoort Dam is focused primarily on the tigerfish (*Hydrocynus vittatus*) fishery. This is the most sought-after indigenous freshwater species and is found in only a limited number of river systems in South Africa. Hundreds of recreational fishers visit the Pongolapoort Dam on the weekends during the summer months to fish for tigerfish.

A community-based angler guiding program was unanimously supported by all sectors of the community in the area, including local tribal authorities, local district municipalities, fishing clubs and member of the private sector that currently utilise the dam for tourism. Local game lodge owners and commercial tour-guide operators identified the need for the service, and fully endorse the idea of a community-based program. Provided the angling guides offer a safe, reliable and professional service, existing private sector tourism industries in the area will promote the program to their guests and clients. It is recommended that guides undergo extensive training to ensure client safety and enjoyment, and, in addition, that the guides obtain qualifications endorsed by the Tourism, Hospitality, and Education Training Association (THETA) and the Field Guides Association of South Africa (FGASA) and the Department of Transport. It is also recommended that they receive training and qualifications in life-saving and first-aid. A training program in most of the above are available in the area, and local commercial operators are prepared to provide on-going mentorship to ensure sustainability of the program.

The program would require start-up capital, which would include personal equipment to the value of ca. R8500.00 per guide and training costs of ca. R85000.00 for each pair of guides trained. The program would have to purchase boats and accessories to the value of ca. R110000 per boat. Not all guides would require a boat; one boat for every two guides is recommended. In addition, facilities including a boathouse/shed and slipway that belong to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) and that are currently not in use, could be converted into a base from which the community-based angler guiding program could operate. The facilities are accessible and ideally situated close to Jozini. It is recommended that permission be requested from the appropriate authorities to utilise these facilities.

It is estimated that the dam will support approximately six community-based angling guides. Initially, only two guides will be trained. They will undergo intensive training, i.e. one instructor to two guides on a daily basis for approximately three months. This will take place at the start of the recreational fishing season, with on-going assistance on a regular basis during the course of the first season. The guides will be encouraged to attend a short refresher course at the beginning of each season. An additional two guides will undergo the same intensive training program at the start of the high-season in year-2; these guides will be mentored by the guides trained during the previous season.

The community-based angler guiding program will be marketed as an environmental friendly operation. Although it will not be limited to “catch-and-release” fishing methods, it will promote this and other responsible methods of fishing.

It is estimated that a guide will make between R2000 and R6000 profit per month during the low- and high-season, respectively, which is considerably more than the minimum wage in the rural parts of South Africa.

In addition to the recreational sport fishery, the Pongolapoort Dam also supports a commercial gill net fishery. This fishery tends to target other species, including *Oreochromis mossambicus* and *Tilapia rendalli*; however, it does catch tigerfish as well. Fish are sold locally and generate very small revenue. The fishery is currently poorly managed and lacks equity in distribution benefits. The commercial fishery could compliment the tourist based fishery by providing a rural fishing-village ambiance; however, it would require a management plan and improved facilities.

Is recommended that an autecological study be undertaken to investigate population dynamics of fish in the dam. This will contribute to the formulation of a management plan that will ensure sustainable use of the tigerfish resource on the Pongolapoort Dam, and thus the sustainable development of the gill net and recreational sport fishery and associated activities, such as an angler guiding service.

In addition to an angling guide service on the Pongolapoort Dam, it is suggested that the potential of a community-based tourism guiding service be investigated for the pans on the floodplain downstream of the dam. This is an extremely scenic area with tourism potential, and boasts vibrant local fishing communities and wild life such as game, hippopotami, crocodiles and abundant bird life. The hot climate in the area would make it an ideal winter destination for tourists, which coincides with the low-season for recreational fishers on the Pongolapoort Dam. The angling guides could take tourists on a three-day tour during the winter months across the flood-plain in a “mokoro” similar to those used on the Okavango Delta; this would allow for the development of at least two overnight facilities run by the local community with emphasis on providing tourists with a truly “African experience.” The flood plain guiding service has the potential of growing into an industry that will, not only compliment the angler guide program, but could potential become larger, attracting more tourists to the area.

It is recommended that the Rural Fisheries Programme at Rhodes University be given the opportunity to hold a formal workshop with all stakeholders around the dam, so that steps can be taken, together with the Swiss South Africa Cooperative Initiative, to initiate a sustainable angler guiding service on the Pongolapoort Dam.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report documents the findings of a reconnaissance trip undertaken in April 2004, which was intended to determine the potential for and feasibility of a rural community-based¹ angler guiding service on and around the Pongolapoort Dam in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

Sport or recreational fishing is a huge industry in South Africa. It is widely practiced in both fresh water and marine environments, although this report is concerned only with the former. In the province of KwaZulu-Natal alone there are over 80 registered angling clubs² and an unknown but significant number of others which have opted not to register. Some clubs tend to focus on one particular fish species such as trout or bass, while others fish for a wider variety of species. Throughout the country there is a well entrenched infrastructure consisting of angling leagues and unions that fall under the Ministry of Sport and Recreation, through which national teams are selected to represent the country in international competitions. The numbers of sport anglers in the country is not known but a study funded by the Federation of Southern African Flyfishers (FOSAF) found that there are some 30,000 fly fishermen in the country. While some of these people also fish using other methods, fly fishing is a relatively small component of the larger recreational fishery, so there will be a far greater number of people who fish using methods other than flyfishing. In addition to the sport fishing population, there is a significant number of people who fish with rod and line for subsistence purposes. However, these people are seeking to obtain food and should not be considered part of the sport fishery.

The value of the entire sport fishery is not known as no overarching study has been done. Localised studies in KwaZulu-Natal value the trout fishery in the Underberg area at ca. R30-million (W. Avni. *pers comm.*) and the Mooi River area at ca. R12- to R15-million (Institute of Water Research *In prep*). These figures take account of moneys paid, not only for fishing rights and access to waters, but also include income derived from provision of accommodation, food outlets, fuel, curios, property sales, and a like. Although these figures relate to high value fisheries and should not be extrapolated across the country, it is immediately apparent that sport fishing in South Africa may be safely valued in the hundreds, or even thousands, of millions of Rands per annum.

¹ The terms “community-based” and “disadvantaged community” refer to communities and people who were politically and economically disadvantaged in South Africa prior to the elections of 1994.

² In KwaZulu-Natal an angling club is obliged to register with the provincial conservation agency if it wishes to hold angling competitions.

The sport fishery on Pongolapoort Dam is focussed primarily on tigerfish (*Hydrocynus vittatus*). This species is considered by many to be Africa's premier freshwater angling species and it is eagerly sought after throughout its range. It occurs in only a few river systems in South Africa, all east flowing and in the north-eastern areas of the country. From an angling perspective, the most important rivers, for reasons of accessibility and demography, are probably the Komati and the Pongola. The Komati River fishery is probably not as good as it used to be, due to environmental degradation of the river, while the importance of the Pongola fishery has been greatly enhanced by the construction of the Pongolapoort Dam. Thus, almost all attention to the development of the tigerfish fishery in South Africa is now focussed on this dam. Virtually all the fishing is done from boats, and comparisons are often made to Kariba Dam in Zimbabwe; Kariba Dam is internationally recognised for its recreational fishery. While the fish are not as big here as they are in Kariba, the close proximity of Jozini to the major commercial centres of Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal make it readily accessible at a relatively low cost. Thus the venue is now



A billboard advertising a professional guiding service at the dam, the proprietor of this business has agreed in principal to mentor the community guides.

regarded as a viable alternative to Kariba and its popularity continues to grow. This has led to a significant tourism boom in the area and one has only to drive through the towns of Jozini or Golela, or along the adjacent N2 highway, to see that almost every accommodation business advertises with a picture of a tigerfish. Even businesses that initially had no direct interest in the fishing industry, such as the game reserves and lodges, have taken to offering a fishing service to their guests.

It was against this background that the potential opportunity for an angler guiding service, operated by local people from disadvantaged communities, was first seen. At present the people from those communities derive little benefit from the dam even though they potentially have extensive access to the resource. In addition, it is believed that alternative opportunities, if wisely developed, are substantial. For example, there is scope for ventures that would compliment the recreational fishery such as guided canoe, hiking, or mountain biking trails in the Pongola River floodplain downstream of the dam, and such activities could contribute to the program particularly during the cooler winter months when the recreational fishing industry is less active.

The potential of a guided recreational fishery together with complimentary activities are addressed in the report that follows.

2. METHODS AND MATERIALS

2.1 Study Procedure

Initially, background investigation into the character of the fishery was undertaken. This was followed by a site visit, at which time interviews and discussions were held with local officials and the stakeholders involved either in the fishery or in other more general activities in the area.

2.2 Study Area

Pongolapoort Dam is a large man-made reservoir situated on the Pongola (Phongolo) River in northern KwaZulu-Natal. The climate in the area is sub-tropical to tropical and the surrounding vegetation consists primarily of bushveld. At full supply level the water surface area of the dam is 13279 ha and at the wall the maximum water depth is 68,2 m. The dam was constructed in 1970's (McCartney, Janganyi and Mkhize, 2004) and remained only partially full until Cyclone Domoina in February 1984, when it was rapidly filled by the ensuing flood. Since that time the water level has been consistently high although the dry summer season of 2003/2004 has led to a drop in water level. The sports fishery was recognised from the time of the construction of the dam, with the tigerfish being the species which is most highly sought after. It is at the southern end of its distribution in the Pongola River but the population is robust and viable. The construction of the dam has resulted in a discontinuity in the population but it is clear that natural breeding takes place in both the upper and the lower sections of river.

The area surrounding the dam has been divided into a number of land-use zones, illustrated in Figure 1.

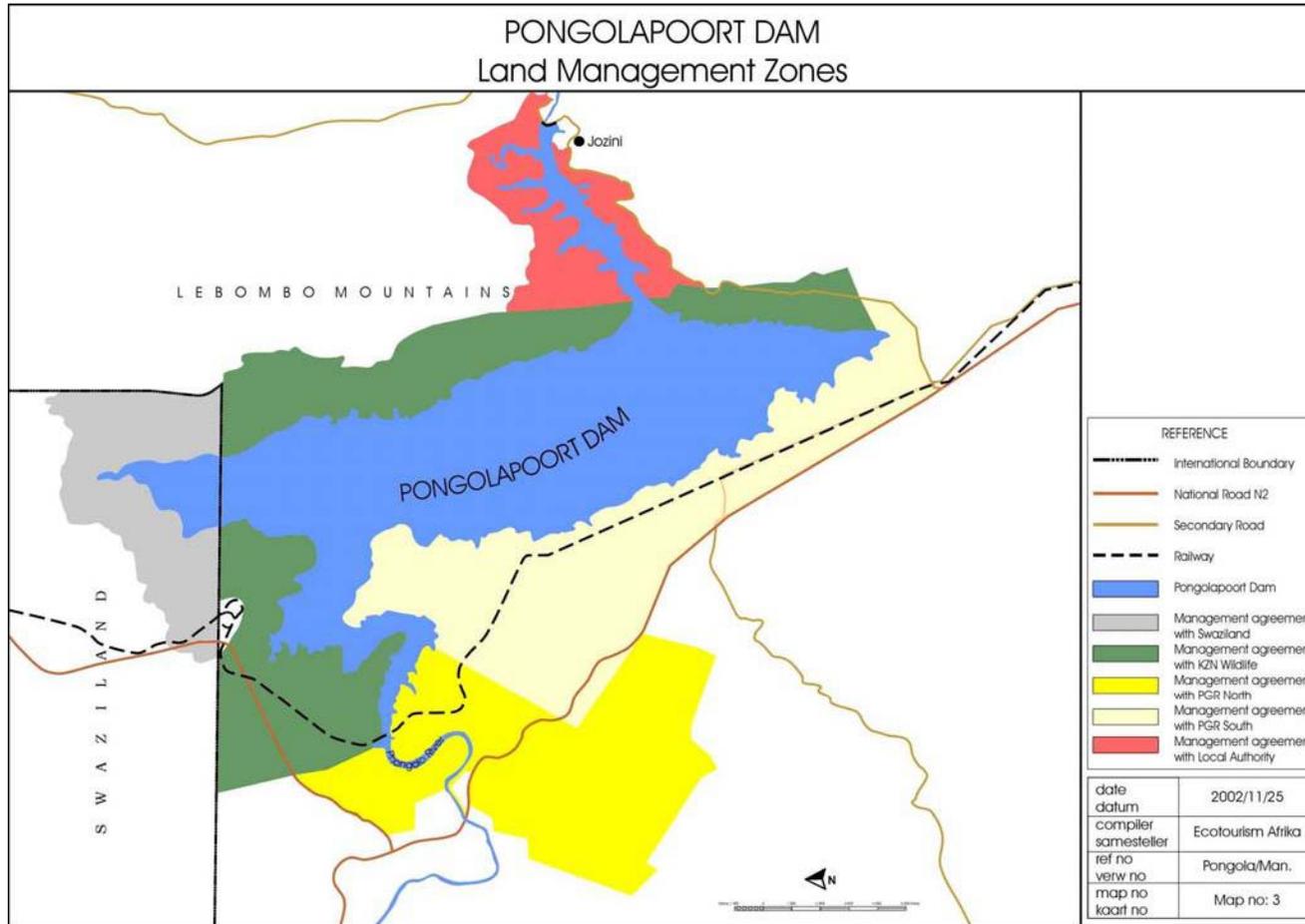


Figure 1 Pongolapoort Dam showing Jozini township and the land-management zones surrounding the impoundment (Diagram courtesy of DWAF).

3. RESULTS

3.1 Description of the Fishery

Pongolapoort Dam contains a wide diversity of fish species and, as indicated by the KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife species database, the river on the floodplain below the dam has almost the highest fish species diversity of any river in South Africa. The tigerfish is the primary target of recreational fishers in the Province; however, it is also possible to catch a variety of breams (tilapia) as well as barbel and some cyprinid fishes. Since the tigerfish is the primary target it shall remain the focus of this report and some aspects of its biology are presented as supplementary information.

3.1.1 Aspects of Tigerfish Biology

Tigerfish appear to form a major component of the biomass of the fish stocks in the dam and Mwanyama (2002) found that it dominated his research-oriented gill net catches in both numbers and mass, as indicated in Figures 2 and 3. Clearly this situation may be misleading as it is not likely that a top predator holds such a position as it usually requires a greater mass of prey species to support it. However, the netting did show that there is good recruitment of juvenile tigerfish into the stock and that they are able to reach a length of about 30 cm, at which size they become susceptible to being caught by sport fishermen (Figure 4). The figure also reveals a sharp decrease in the numbers of larger individuals. Tigerfish males mature at an age of 2 to 3 years and a fork length of 300 – 400 mm, whereas the females mature at a later age and at a length of at least 400 mm (Skelton, 2001). If these figures hold true for Pongolapoort Dam there may be cause for concern there appears to be lack fish large enough to be sexually mature females. However, they are highly fecund, with a 65 cm female producing as many as 780,000 eggs.

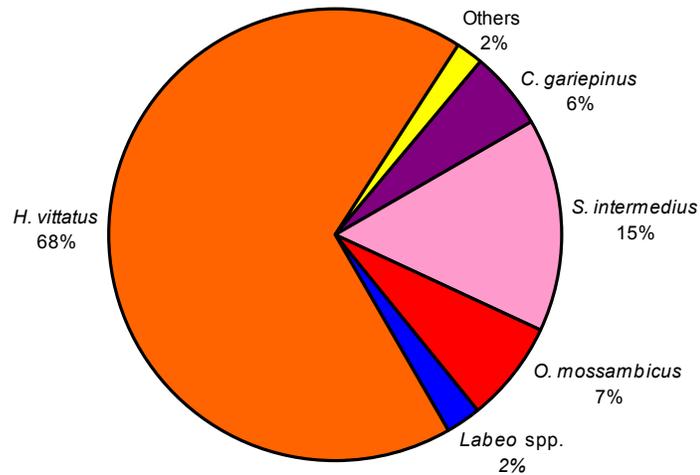


Figure 2 Composition of gill net catches by number of fish caught, where *H. vittatus* = tigerfish, *C. gariepinus* = sharptooth catfish (barbel), *S. intermedius* = silver catfish, *O. mossambicus* = Mocambique tilapia, *Labeo spp* = mudfish species (Mwanyama, 2002).

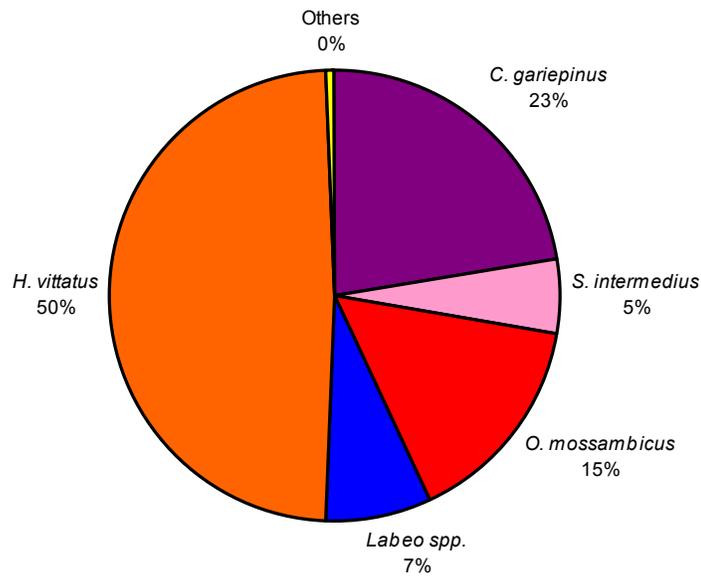


Figure 3 Composition of gill net catches by mass of fish caught, where *H. vittatus* = tigerfish, *C. gariepinus* = sharptooth catfish (barbel), *S. intermedius* = silver catfish, *O. mossambicus* = Mocambique tilapia, *Labeo spp* = mudfish species (Mwanyama, 2002).

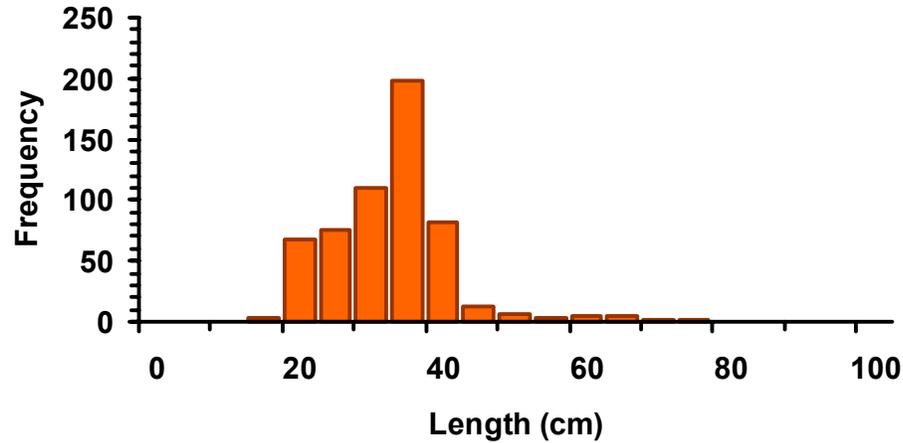


Figure 4 Size frequency distribution of tigerfish caught in gill nets (Mwanyama, 2002).

The reason for the sharp decline in the numbers of larger fish is not properly understood but three possible explanations are suggested. First, it may be a natural characteristic of the species in that dam that large numbers die off at age 1+ or 2+ years. Second, the population shape may be an artefact of the net mesh sizes used in the course of the study, or of the locality of the netting operations. The third possibility may be due to the catch and release sport fishery. The mortality rate of those fish which are released is not known but is likely to be high as tigerfish die quickly if over-exhausted or if retained out of the water for more than a few moments. There may be other reasons for the lack of larger fish but, against the backdrop of the three possibilities suggested, it is apparent that there is some uncertainty about the population dynamics of tigerfish in that dam. It is therefore recommended that a monitoring study be instigated and that, if necessary, its results be used to establish conservation-related measures.



Satisfied recreational fisher with a tigerfish of approximately 5kg

3.1.2 Fishery Characteristics

Two discrete fisheries are centred on the dam, including the recreational sport fishery and commercial gill net fishery. They tend to target different species and also largely show spatial separation. However, there is friction between the users of these fisheries. This is probably due to poor management and a lack of zonation on the dam and a lack of dialogue between the users of the resource. This friction could be resolved with better management and constructive communication between users.

3.1.3 Recreational sport fishery

The first fishery is a sport angling fishery and is focussed primarily on tigerfish. This fishery is highly capital intensive and does not seek to provide fish for human consumption although not all fish captured are returned to the water. Tigerfish are sought out for their angling qualities which, because of the strength of the fish and their habit of jumping repeatedly when hooked, are highly esteemed. Most of the smaller fish are returned to the water while larger specimens are often kept as trophies.

Angling competitions are a regular feature of the fishery. The number of events tends to vary from year to year, with an average ca. 20 per annum. Given that the informal angling season is from about October to April, this amounts to a competition every second weekend. The largest event is the Tigerfish Bonanza and the field is deliberately restricted to 300 boats, with each boat having up to four anglers. Entry is open to all and it is estimated that the income generated by the event is about R1-million. The other competitions are mostly club events although almost all have a fund-raising objective as well. Commonly, there are about 15 to 20 boats that take part in these events although there are usually other non-competing boats on the dam at the same time.



Some angling clubs have permanent facilities at the Pongolapoort Dam.

A slightly different competition is organised by the Honorary Conservation Rangers Association and operates from the south end of the dam as opposed to the north end as the others are. It is planned to be held in November this year. It is an international competition with entrants from nine countries and accommodates up to 100 boats. It will have a live fish, tag-and-release format, which is unusual.

Many of the competitions base their results on mass alone and this can lead to very high mortalities. A local resident reports seeing about 400 dead tigerfish, most of small size, lying on the bank at a small competition. A more recent trend, however, is to impose minimum size restrictions on fish which may be weighed in. This has a positive effects on reducing mortality rates but, simultaneously, it shifts attention to the larger, sexually mature individuals in the population. This should be monitored as it could have a deleterious affect on the fish

population. It is therefore recommended that an autecological study be carried out on the tigerfish in the dam and that particular attention be given to the age and size at which sexual maturity is attained. This study is likely to result in recommendations for the sustainable management of the tigerfish population in the dam.

3.1.4 Gill net fishery

The second fishery is a low key, low technology, gill net fishery; a full description of this fishery can be found in Mwanyama (2002). It is operated on the basis of a single licence; however, the licence holder employs a number of people who operate under the single licence. Previously there were two licences but one was withdrawn as the holder disregarded the conditions of the licence. It is possible that the second licence may be issued again to a different operator. The licence limits the operator to a maximum of 150 m of netting. This fishery, although it does catch small tigerfish in large numbers, seeks primarily to catch cichlid species, particularly *Oreochromis mossambicus* and *Tilapia rendalli*. All fish caught are kept irrespective of size; many are already dead when removed from the water.



Women from Jozini town buying fish from the gill net fishers.

The gill netting fishery is not operating optimally. The lack of adequate resources and infrastructure result in unsatisfactory conditions for the participants and to poor hygiene of the fish sold in the market. In addition, financial returns are poor with profit margins as low as R2,00 per fish with vendors selling between 15 and 20 fish per day.



Fish in a bucket ready to be transported into town for sale.

Although this study was not intended to focus on gill net fishery, this fishery is likely to influence the success of a tourism based recreational fishery since both will operate in close proximity to each other. Furthermore, a well run and hygienic local-community based gill net fishery could potentially create an ambiance that attracts international tourists. Therefore, it is recommended that a study into the gill net fishery is initiated with a view to upgrading the facilities and developing a management plan.



Tilapia caught from the dam is sold in Jozini town. Currently the women operating this business realise approximately R1.00 to R2.00 profit per fish as gill net operator sells the fish to these vendors at high prices.

3.1.5 Economic benefits of the recreational fishery

The sport fishery is a major contributor to the economy of the area around the dam. Most of the income is derived from tourist accommodation although boat hire and guiding services are increasingly important. Game reserve operators interviewed along the western side of the dam (Figure 1) report that they are obliged to offer a fishing service. Even though it is not their primary business, it does increase the number of guests that utilise their accommodation facilities.

Boat hire and guiding operations, based primarily in Golela, are developing to meet the demand for these facility. The economic value of the fishery has not been quantified although it is likely to be substantial. In the absence of a proper study, no reliable figures are available for the Pongolapoort Dam; however, the value of the two trout fisheries quoted in the Introduction suggest that it is probably valued in millions of Rands. Tourism in the area

also has a positive effect on the value of property, with the price of land increasing in the area around the dam.

The local rural communities have no direct holding in the recreational sports fishery on the Pongolapoort Dam, even though these people own a large portion of the dam's shoreline. As such, almost none of the income generated from the fishery accrues to the local rural communities, other than through provision of jobs. There are plans for provision of tourist facilities in the area, but at present, the local rural community are almost entirely isolated from the resource and its economic benefits. The Water Users Association recognises this imbalance and is taking steps to address it through its system of operator concessions.

3.2 Interview Results

The people interviewed were all very interested in the proposed project and were all willing to discuss it freely. The summaries of the interviews and discussions which follow are not intended to be transcriptions or minutes of the various meetings held, but contain the core of what was said and noted.

3.2.1 Jozini town and tribal areas

Mr Ronald Radebe, who is a resident in Jozini and has been involved in a number of community projects, acted as an intermediary for meetings with a number of people in Jozini. He has association with the local municipality and is a well respected member of the community. Through him it was possible to meet with the people involved with the gill net fishery and to gain insight into their activities and the problems which they encounter. Also involved in these meetings was Mr Ernest Mlambo, who is the District Conservation Officer for Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife. As the representative of the provincial conservation agency it is one of his responsibilities to monitor the fish netting operation.

The community would like to gain a greater stake in the activities on the dam as they presently have no part in them other than through the gill net fishery and some employment opportunities. There are plans for some developments in the communally owned area on the north side of the dam gorge. This area is in the Nyawo Tribal Area and a start has been made in establishing a community game reserve at this site. The reserve will include at least one lodge for visitors and it is hoped that it will be possible to offer a fishing service as a part of the package. This service could be provided by the people who are trained and backed by this programme. The arrangement could either be on a temporary basis in which case people from the lodge would be trained up, or it could be on a permanent basis in which

case more “freelance” guides might become necessary. There is an existing private lodge in the area situated near the dam wall which may provide further opportunities.

There are also plans to develop a conservation area on tribal land adjacent to the Swaziland border. It is possible that this might link up with similar activities on the other side of the border and so form a multi-national partnership.

The gill net fishers complained about a number of problems which they face on a regular basis. These include difficulties in operating on the main body of the dam which is supposedly closed to them as a means of minimising conflict between themselves and other boaters. They report that they are sometimes harassed by recreational anglers who accuse them of reducing the fish stocks. At times they have come close to having their boat sunk by having high powered motorboats circling them. They would like better facilities at their operating base, and this was supported by the women who come to the water's edge to purchase the fish which they later resell on the streets in Jozini.

The only facility at the water's edge is a long, steep concrete slipway which is the property of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF). This leads up to a building which consists of a boat house and two other rooms, which could be converted into fish processing facility and base from which recreational guides could operate. At present it is unused and so can be considered as an opportunity for further development. Access to the site is by means of a rough, but passable, vehicle track.

3.2.2 Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife – Phongola Game Reserve

The Officer-in-Charge of the Phongola Game Reserve, Mr Mark Thomson, was able to provide a great deal of information as he is closely involved with the management of the dam surface area and its surrounds.

Of key importance has been the recent establishment of a Water Users Association which will both control the number of people or organisations that may operate commercially on the dam and will also ensure that the various activities are sustainable. There have been numerous meetings of officials and stakeholders to establish the association, and its composition and constitution are now virtually finalised. A utilisation plan is being prepared and currently ten water user concessions will be issued. Five of these will be based in the gorge area of the dam and five around the main basin. The plan will allow for three more public access points and at least one aquaculture concession.

The concessions in the gorge are specifically intended to create opportunities for the rural and other previously disadvantaged communities living in that area. This development needs to be carefully monitored by this programme as it has objectives which are similar to those of this study; there shall be a need for collaboration should this go forward.

3.2.3 Professional fishing guide

Mr Chris Rippon is acting as a full-time commercial fishing guide on the dam. He had previously worked for one of the game reserve operations as their fishing guide but had decided to establish his own business, since there was a demand for such a service. He believes that there is scope for a community-based angler guiding service as well his own service. The community service could compliment his own; at times when he is unable to cope with demand, he would like to be able to call on the program to assist him. Some details of the services offered by Mr Rippon are summarised in Appendix II.

He emphasised very strongly the need for high standards for anybody operating on the dam. Apart from the need for a professional demeanour and appropriate angling skills, he placed strong emphasis on the need for a good boat and for boat-handling skills. The dam can very quickly change from calm to rough and become dangerous. Several boats have experienced serious problems on the dam due to bad weather conditions in the past and there is always the risk of fatalities. Mr Rippon indicated that he could assist in the training of the community guides and act as a mentor until such time that they become independent.

3.2.4 Recreational fishing competitions

There are several tiger fishing competitions held on Pongolapoort Dam during the summer months. Mr Chris Diggs, the organiser of First Paper House Fishing Competition, was interviewed to determine his views regarding the current status of the sports fishery and about the potential of developing a community based guiding service on the dam.

Mr Diggs would support an initiative where the local community became a role-player in the sports fishery sector. He considers the sports fishery a significant activity on the dam, but it requires better management to ensure sustainability.

3.2.5 Umkhanyakude District Municipality

Pongolapoort Dam and the area around it lies within two district municipalities. This is potentially a complicating issue, but the demography of the area does reduce the problem to

a certain extent. The rural communities are almost all situated within the Umkhanyakude District Municipality, whereas the privately owned areas are within the uPhongolo District Municipality. Unfortunately the field visit took place at a time when final preparations were being made for the forthcoming election and it was not possible to meet with more than one municipal representative, Mr Tim Moodley of the Umkhanyakude District Municipality. He is also the interim chairman of the Water Users Association and holds the municipality tourism portfolio, so was fully aware of the development proposals for the dam and its users.

The municipality would strongly support a community-based recreational fishers guiding programme. Mr Moodley pointed out that such a program was in line with the municipalities approach to development in the area, since development of capacity and business opportunities in the rural areas were high priorities. Apart from facilitation of the developmental process, it was probable that the municipality would also be able to provide some financial support. The idea of the fishing guides working as river tour guides in the angling off-season was also considered to be a sensible and an attractive additional opportunity for rural development.

3.2.6 Pongola Game Reserve

Representatives from private game reserves support the fishing guide initiative, provided the standard of the service is of a high quality.

Both the owner, Mr Brian Blevin, and the marketing manager, Mr John Hishin, of the Pongola Game Reserve were interviewed and made it clear that their core business was the game reserve and its various accommodation units but, due to considerable demand, they were prepared to offer a fishing service for their clients. They would be willing to make use of the services offered by the local community fishing guide programme, provided that the standards were of a suitable quality. Such quality would apply to angling skills, presentation, manner, boating skills, and equipment. It would be absolutely essential that the people involved were appropriately qualified in each area of their activities. These would include the Tourism, Hospitality, and Education Training Association (THETA), Field Guides Association of South Africa (FGASA), and the Department of Transport (DOT) Skippers Ticket for boat handling. The game reserve and its staff comply with these standards and, without such qualification, it would not be possible to make use of the local community guides.

The reserve has developed a training centre which focuses on the activities carried out by its staff, both in order to maintain its own operating standards and as a service to others.

These are usually related to game-ranger training but also cover those facets which are related to game guides, bird-watching guides, and the like. Thus it would be quite feasible for the centre to provide some of the training necessary for fishing guides and this could be dovetailed with mentoring from Mr Rippon.

Recreational anglers have requested a guide service. Mr Hishin indicated that angling clubs have asked him about the possibility of suitably qualified guides who would operate on the anglers' own boats. There have been enquiries from club members who wish to use their own boats, but who are inexperienced in tigerfish fishing and who would like to hire a guide to assist them. This form of activity would open up additional opportunities for the guides and it is possible that the venture would consist of a number of skilled people but only a small number of boats. An advantage to the extension is that guides, who are not licensed boat users and do not have access to their own boat, could provide a service.

3.2.7 Federation of Southern African Flyfishers (FOSAF)

FOSAF is a non-government organisation (NGO) which is involved in the promotion of flyfishing in southern Africa and which has stated strong support for conservation measures and for fish-related community upliftment projects amongst its various policies. In the past it has supported research programmes aimed at development of sports fisheries in rural areas as a means of both assisting communities and conserving fish stocks. The organisation was not interviewed in the course of the field study trip but this project has been presented to FOSAF through its KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Committee. It attracted considerable interest and the organisation may be able to assist with the training of the guides or in advertising or marketing the operation, for example.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Potential for a community-based angler guiding service

Until about ten to fifteen years ago, Pongolapoort Dam was not considered a major venue for tigerfish angling. The prime localities were considered to be Kariba Dam in Zimbabwe, the Okavango Delta in Botswana, the Zambezi River in various places, and, to a lesser extent, the Cahorra Bassa Dam in Mocambique. Since the dam filled during the Domoina flood, the fishing has boomed and there is no doubt that angling for tigerfish is perceived to be a major economic draw-card by the people resident around Pongolapoort Dam. This applies to both those in the tribal areas and in the privately owned areas. A drive through Jozini town and elsewhere around the dam revealed numerous business operations based on the fishery in one way or another. Almost all the businesses that offer accommodation in the proximity of the dam also offer a fishing service and there are also some full-time guiding services. In addition to these businesses there are others which are situated in the major centres of South Africa (Gauteng, Durban and Cape Town, for example) which offer tigerfish packages at Jozini. At present there seems to be no end to the expansion in sight and at the time of the visit, several new accommodation venues in the town of Golela were opening for the first time.

Against this background it is clear that there is scope for a community-based fish guiding service. Also, not only is the demand present, but coincidentally the necessary management and administrative conditions are being set in place by the Water Users Association. The fact that five of the concessions are to be based in the gorge area is indicative of the intention and will to establish the tribal communities as stakeholders in the dam-based industries.

Whether the angler guiding program should form a standalone business or form part of the game reserve being established in the tribal area needs to be determined. Present indications are that it should be a standalone venture for several reasons. True independence would give the people concerned the freedom to seek business wherever opportunity arises as opposed to being tied to a particular overarching organisation. The guides would be able to operate with clients of their own or would be able to serve some other business if needed. They would be free to operate from different bases if necessary and as demand arises. Further, during the off-season, they would be able to turn their attention to other activities such as the suggested river tours. However, this will be covered in consultation with local stakeholders and the Swiss South African Cooperative Initiative.

It is recommended that the community-based angler guiding program be marketed as an environmental friendly operation, irrespective of whether it falls within the nature reserve development or not. Although it will not be limited to “catch-and-release” fishing methods, it should promote this and other responsible methods of fishing.

4.2 Size of the community-based angler guiding service

It is recommended that two guides be trained during the first phase of the study. There is scope for a large number of guides and it is believed that the size of the fishery will allow for guides to be based at both the Golela and the Jozini ends of the dam. However, it is suggested that two people gain the initial experience and that they then mentor two others as they gain experience and become established. It is possible that ultimately a group of five or six guides will be developed although not all will be working at the same time and some may only guide on a part-time basis.

4.3 Requirements for a community-based angler guiding service

In order to plan the requirements for a community-based fishing service it is necessary to consider the options open to the venture. It is suggested that the following services be made available:

- Guides assist anglers while on the anglers' boats;
- Guides assist anglers from angler-guide-program boats;
- Guides assisting anglers who are guests at a game lodge and use boats that belong either to the lodge or to the angler-guide-program.

There are substantial cost differences between the above as the requirements for a boat vary. The material which follows endeavours to split the issues so that the cost of each item may be clearly seen.

4.3.1 Training requirements

Irrespective of the mode of operation, the element common to all of the above is the guides who must be suitably qualified. They must be well spoken in English with a minimum of a Grade 10 education. In addition to this, various lodge operators and fishing guides would require that the guides have the following basic training for them to advertise their services to lodge guests:

- THETA – Trained to "Local Guide" level; this is the second level in a scale which ranges from "Site Guide" through to "National Guide".
- FGASA – Level 1 or Level 2; probably Level 1 would be sufficient in that all that would be required would be some knowledge of the local fauna and flora.

It is also recommended that the guides have the following qualifications:

- Department of Transport (DOT) boat handling certificate;
- First aid qualification;
- Life-saving qualification.

The requirement for DOT boat handling certificate is more complex but it is possible that part of the training could be conducted at the local training facility. The extreme weather conditions experience on the dam and associated dangers, make DOT boat handling certificates, first-aid and life-saving essential qualifications, since the success of this project hinges on the guides being able to provide a safe and professional service.

The game guide training facility run by Mr Chris Rippon of Irie Tiger Fishing Safaris near the Pongolapoort Dam offers courses that include elements applicable to fishing guides and the courses offered by the facility include THETA and FGASA qualifications. He has suggested a training program for the community-based fishing guide program as follows:

Phase 1 – Introduction to fishing, boat handling and safety (5 days):

In addition to basic introduction to recreational sports fishing, the course will include experience on the water in rough conditions, boat problems and a fake accidents such as hook in hand and hippo charge. In addition, literature will be supplied and studied.

Phase 2 – Fishing rig techniques (7 days):

Phase 2 will cover how to rig up fishing equipment and different ways of targeting tigerfish. It will also cover aspects of tigerfish biology and behaviour, which directly affects the way the fish are targeted, fishing spots and boat position, for example. The seven day allocated to this phase shall include a minimum of 5 days fishing on the dam.

Phase 3 – Customer care (20 days):

This phase covers tourist fisher's needs, with emphasis on being dynamic, flexible and seeing to the clients specific requirements; for example: does the fisher want to catch large numbers of fish or one large fish?; is the fisher experience or a novice?; is he flyfisher or trawler or does he prefer artificial or real bate?; how old is the fisher?; is he disabled? Emphasis will also be placed on reading the clients requirements: is he getting board?; should you find an alternative fishing spot?; etc. All the above questions will influence the choices made by the guide in seeing to the requirements of the client.

In addition, this phase will cover aspects of wild-life ecology including not only fish's ecosystem, but the ecosystem as a whole including plants, birds and animals. Most importantly, the guides will taught to entertain the clients, so that the time experience with the guide will be considered worth while, irrespective of whether the fishing is successful or not.

Phase 4 – Specialised fishing (15 days):

This phase will focus on the theory of different specialised fishing methods and will include substantial study material. It will be followed by an examination, following which it will include a practical specialised fishing course.

Phase 5 – Fishing equipment (3 days):

This will cover all aspects of caring for and servicing fishing equipment, and to how to identify if a clients equipment requires servicing. It will have theoretical and practical sections.

Phase 6 – Follow up and support (approximately 15 days):

Phase 6 will include following up on the guides during the course of their first season as guides. They will be reminded of various components of the course, particularly aspects of customer care (Phase-3) to ensure the sustainability of the program.

The entire program includes 65 days and will take approximately 3 months to complete. In addition to the 3-month course, it is recommended that a refresher course is held on an annual basis for all guides at the start of each season.

4.3.2 Personal equipment

In order for the guides to be presentable and to give a favourable, professional, impression it is essential that they have a smart appearance which is promoted by appropriate clothing and equipment. The following is suggested as a minimum:

Clothing

Shirts (3); short trousers (3); long trousers (1); sandal type footwear (1); hat/cap (2); rain suit (1); windcheater jacket (1).

Sundries

Dark glasses; life jacket; small portable first aid kit; cell phone; small cold box; carry bag/pack; bedding roll.

Fishing equipment

Spinning rod and reel; flyfishing rod and reel; line (AFTMA 6/7); sundry lures; flies; hooks; leader material; boxes; knife; etc.

4.3.3 Communal capital equipment

In addition to the equipment which would be personal to each trained guide, the program would own communal equipment. Such equipment would consist of major items and would include the boat(s) and accessories. The boats used must be of a design which meets certain criteria including the following:

Seaworthiness

The construction must be of the "wet deck" type in which any water which comes onto the boat can run off through scuppers. The boat must be big enough and must have sufficient engine power to be able to cope with the difficult weather conditions which may be encountered and which can arise with little warning. It is suggested that minimum boat size be a length of 16 feet and that the minimum motor size be 60 horsepower. A catamaran hull must have two motors of suitable size. The bow must be high enough that seas will not readily enter over the deck. Ideally the boat would be one designed for use on the ocean; there are a number of suitable options available.

It is not recommended that, despite their relatively low cost, an inflatable boat of any sort be used. The reasons for this are that such boats lack durability, are vulnerable

to punctures from fish hooks, are restricted in their deck space, and may be unsafe under conditions of high winds and large seas.

Angler user-friendly

The boat must be suitable for fishing. This implies a large, clear deck that is carpeted, with adequate storage space including rod racks, a sunshade, seats, an electric "sneaker" motor, and a depth sounder/fish finder.

Associated with the boat is the need for a trailer and vehicle to move it between sites. A means of addressing this will need to be found but it is not recommended that a vehicle be considered as a part of the operation unless one of the people involved is able to provide one.

4.3.4 Building infrastructure

The slipway at Jozini is the only slipway situated close in this area of the dam and it is unlikely that any other will be constructed on the south bank due to the steep gradient of the terrain in this area. Therefore, this site is pivotal to the development of a guiding service in that area and it should be considered in the planning process. The boathouse is considered easily upgradeable to include a storeroom/office/shop for the fishing guides and a restaurant or other food outlet business could also be established there. It would be possible to construct steps from the site down to the shoreline where a floating jetty would serve as the base for the fishing guides. This site could form the hub of the community based sports fisheries development, particularly if the area around slipway (tribal land) becomes a nature reserve for tourism.

The area around the slipway is sounded by Jozini town, and is owned by DWAF. It is situated opposite the nature reserve development proposed by the Nyawo Tribal Authority. It is recommended that the upgrading and use of the slipway and boathouse be discussed with the appropriate authority.



The slipway at Jozini town from which the gill net fishers operate from. This DWAF building in the middle of the picture could be used as a facility for the guides



This building next to the slip way at Jozini; belongs to DWAF but is currently unused; could be the operating centre for the community-based recreational fisher guide project.



The south eastern arm of the dam is very scenic; it is the proposed area that the Nyawo Tribal Authority plan to develop as a tourism reserve; it is protected from the wave action that is commonly found on the open dam, making it an ideal site for sports fishing.

4.4 Costs

The development of a community-based fishing guide operation will incur a number of costs relating to necessary training of the guides and to the acquisition of equipment and to running costs.

4.4.1 Personal equipment

An estimation of costs has been made but was complicated by variations in cost of different makes and models of equipment. A balance between quality and price had to be sought and the correct balance was subjective. It was also thought that losses and breakages are likely to be commonplace at first and so distinction is made between absolute necessities and “nice-to-have” items. These costs are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 Approximate costs associated with supplying a single guide with necessary equipment.

ITEM	NECESSITY	OPTIONAL/ EXPENDABLE	TOTAL
Clothing items		1200	
Dark glasses	300		
Life jacket	250		
First aid kit	100		
Cell phone (prepaid)		500	
Cold box		100	
Carry bag	150		
Bedding roll		500	
Fishing equipment	1500	500	
15% contingency	345	420	
Subtotal per person:	2645	3220	
TOTAL FOR TWO GUIDES	5290	3220	8510

4.4.2 Boat

The cost of a suitable boat will vary substantially with the size and type of boat purchased and whether it is new or second hand. While some would argue against a second hand boat, the market is large and it will be quite possible to get a suitable item for substantially less than the cost of a new one. Quite probably the cost of the boat will include several of the items listed as accessories but, as a matter of caution, they are listed separately. The boat costs are given in Table 2.

Table 2 Approximate costs of a suitable boat and ancillary equipment.

ITEM	COST
Boat and motor	80 000
Trailer	15 000
Electric motor and battery	7 000
Fish finder	5 000
Life jackets (3 for clients)	750
Tool kit	200
Anchor, chain, and rope	500
TOTAL	108 450

4.4.3 Guide training costs

The community guides must be expected to operate on a complete and viable profit making basis. If, for any reason, they cannot do so, then it would be better for the people to train and function as employees of some other venture or operation. Despite this, it will be necessary for them to undergo a period of training, during which they must learn their way around the dam and must gain some skills and confidence, but during which they cannot be expected to be earning money on a commercially viable basis. Running and training costs for this period are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3 Approximate costs associated with the training/learning period of the fishing guides. The costs are based on two people and one boat for three months.

ITEM	COST
Training/tuition (see 4.3.1 for details)	52 000
Boat fuel and oil	8 000
Boat maintenance	500
Sundry expenses	6 000
Accommodation	9 000
Subsistence	9 000
TOTAL	84 500

4.5 Potential Income and Expenditure for Guides

Income generated by the guides will vary according to the seasons, since level of recreational fishing on the Pongolapoort Dam has three informal seasons. High-season is when the dam experiences most recreational fishing and this occurs between October and March the following year. Recreational fishing pressure between May and August every year is low; this period is called low-season. Medium-season, in April and in September every year, is an interim period between low- and high-season.

These fishing season are reflected by the predicted number of clients per guide during the year, and the income and expenditure per guide (Figure 4). The data in Figure 4 is a prediction base on the following assumptions:

1. There are four weeks per month;
2. Guides will charge R300 per client;

3. In high-season the guides will take an average of four clients per weekend and three clients per week;
4. In medium-season the guides will each take an average of two clients per weekend and two client during the week;
5. In low-season the guides will each take an average of 1 client per weekend and 1 client per week.

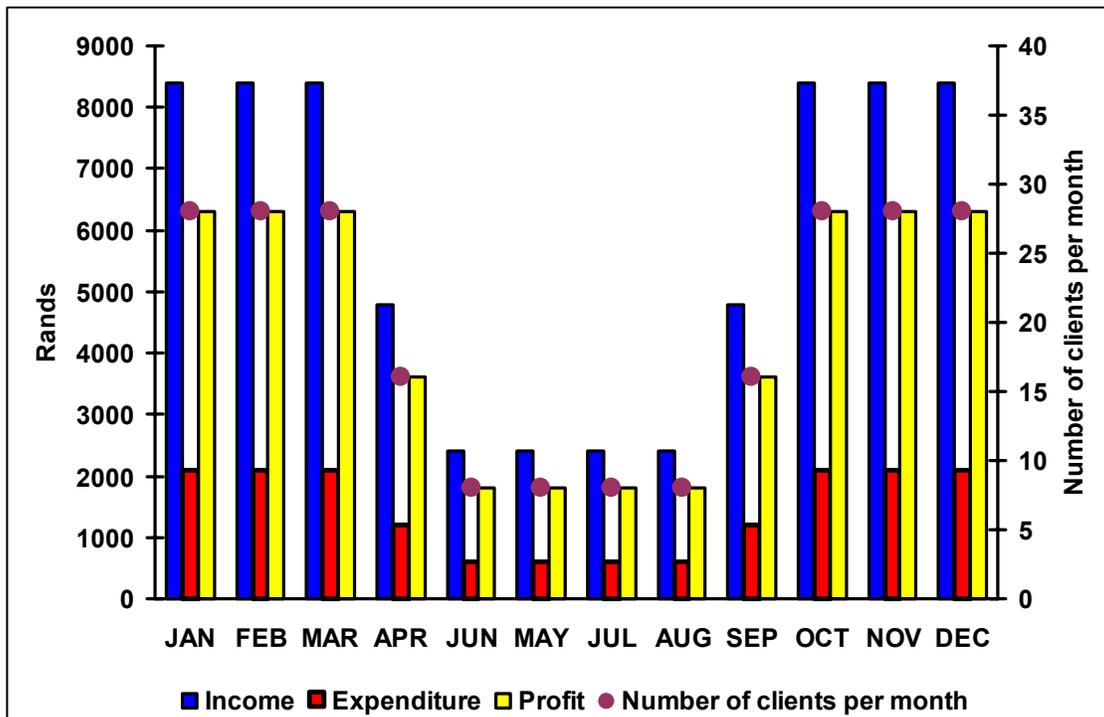


Figure 4 Predicted income and expenditure and profit made per guide during the course of a year; the figures are an estimate only and do not include salaries since it is assumed that the profit made by the guide shall be his gross take-home salary.

These assumptions are conservative, since hundreds of fishers visit the dam most weekends during the high-season, there are often more than four weeks in a month and commercial operators on the dam ask for as much as R450 per day for a guided fishing trip (Appendix II). The profit made per guide during the low-season according to Figure 4 is more than twice that of the minimum wage for farm labourers in the area; during the high-season it

is more than eight times greater than the minimum wage for a farm labourer in rural areas of South Africa.

4.6 Other Potential Tourism Activities

The proposed angler guiding service may not be economically viable throughout the year, since the fishery on which it would depend is, to a large extent, seasonal, and peaks in summer. While some fish may be caught during the cooler months, there is a decline in the catch rate in winter and the season all but closes between about March and September each year. For this reason it would be necessary to consider alternative activities for the guides during those months. Fortunately several potential options exist, including guided canoe, hiking, or mountain biking trails in the Pongola River floodplain downstream of the dam. In the hot, tropical climate of the area, such activities are best undertaken in the winter months.

The floodplain below the river is an area of considerable ecological and social interest and it has been compared in some ways to the Okavango Delta in Botswana. The river meanders at a very low gradient. The river floods between 90 and 100 pans in the floodplain and these water bodies total ca. 26km² (McCartney *et al.* 2004). The bird fauna is diverse and some animals such as crocodiles and hippopotamus may be seen; it is one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in South Africa (McCartney *et al.* 2004). Within these areas the local people still practice the ancient “fonya” fishing method. This is a collective event in which lines of people, usually women, use specially made plunge baskets to trap the fish.

During the winter months, water releases from the dam fill the floodplain and so the scope for river-related tourism is at its best. People who have rafted down the river suggest that it takes about three days from the dam to the bridge at Makhane’s Drift. Thus there would be two overnight stops and so there is scope for two tourism accommodation ventures, where guest could be guided though the plains in synthetic “mokoro” boats similar to those use in the Okavango Delta.

It was not in the scope of this study to investigate the potential of a community guiding operation in the floodplain area but it is recommended that such a study be done as a corollary to this one.



The pans below the Pongolapoort Dam wall on the Pongola River have potential as a tourism destination



“Mokoro” boats seen here in the Okavango delta could be used to guide tourists through the pans of the Pongola River below the dam during winter, as community based tourism project. In order to preserve the few remaining large trees in the Okavango delta, fibreglass is used to manufacture these boats.

5. CONCLUSION

There is both scope and demand for a community-based angler guiding service on the Pongolapoort Dam. There is no known example of any dam-related community-based venture other than that of the small-scale gill netting; there is acute awareness of this shortfall both amongst the community involved and the various levels of local (municipal) government. In order to rectify the situation there are plans for a conservation area on the north bank of the gorge area of the dam, offering game viewing and accommodation. This would, however, be a land-based operation and would make only incidental use of the water body. A recent development in the area is the Water Users Association which has been constituted to manage the activities on and around the dam. It will control those activities through the issuing of a fixed number of concessions (about 10) to approved entrepreneurs. Five of these concessions will be given to local people in order to allow them equitable access to the resources offered by the dam and its surrounds. However, it may be some time before tangible results are seen in this regard and it is thought that the proposed venture can proceed without waiting.

Without exception, all the people interviewed supported the concept of a community-based angler guiding service. Tourism, based largely on fishing for tigerfish, is booming in the area, and several of the people who currently run tourism operations on and around the dam were emphatic in raising some concerns about the proposed guiding business. The issues fell into three categories:

1. *safety* – guides shall undergo intensive training to ensure the safety of clients;
2. *standards* – intensive training and ongoing monitoring shall ensure that the services offered are of a standard high enough to ensure sustainability of the program;
3. *seasonality* – alternative tourism opportunities on the Pongola River flood plain exist for fishing guides in the off season when the number of fishers on the dam decreases.

Against the background of the booming tigerfish-based tourism industry on and around the Pongolapoort Dam, and with the support of the private sector, local government and local communities in the area, it is recommended that the community-based fishing guide service be further supported and investigated.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Pongolapoort Dam already hosts a well developed recreational fishery and is situated next to an international boarder post between South Africa and Swaziland, which brings more tourists into KwaZulu-Natal than any other entrance point. There is a need and considerable scope for a fisher guiding service on the dam. Therefore, it is recommended that a community-based fisher guiding program be developed on the Pongolapoort Dam.

The community-based fisher guiding program could be the catalyst for community participation and entry into the tourism industry in the area. Therefore, this project should be viewed in context of its potential to unlock community owned assets for tourism.

2. The development of a community-based program has the support of the local community including the private sector and local authorities, so it is recommended that these groups be involved in the development of the program. It is also recommended that the program is developed in conjunction with other community programs in the area to ensure that other programs, such as the development of a nature/game reserve on community owed land, compliment each other.
3. The success of a community-based fisher guiding program will depend on the sustainability of the sport fishery; there is currently no management plan for this fishery. Therefore, it is recommended that a management plan should be developed, and in doing so, it is further commended that an autecological study be carried out on the fish populations in the dam, with attention given to the size frequency distribution of the populations and the age and size at sexual maturity, with particular attention given to tigerfish populations; this could form the basis of an MSc study. The community-based angler guiding program will be marketed as an environmental friendly operation. Although it will not be limited to “catch-and-release” fishing methods, it will promote this and other responsible methods of fishing.
4. It is predicted that the community-based fisher guiding program could sustain six guides. However, it is recommended that only two guides be trained initially during the first phase of the study; these guides will subsequently mentor others as they become experienced and the program becomes established. The second group of guides will be

trained during the second year (Appendix III). The success of the program will depend on the quality of the service offered. Therefore, it is recommended that guides have Grade 10 as minimum schooling and that they undergo intensive training and on-going mentoring under the guidance of existing commercial guide operators. In addition, it is recommended that they are trained to THETA “local guide” level, attain a “level-1” or “level-2” FGASA qualification in local fauna and flora, and a boat handling certificate from the Department of Transport; these qualifications could be organised through the course offered by Mr Chris Rippon discussed in the report. Other private sector operators could contribute to training and mentoring program.

5. It is recommended that a selection and screening process for potential guides be implemented. It is thought that simple nomination of candidates by the local community will be insufficient as impartiality is essential. However, a collaborative process involving the tribal authorities and possibly the municipality will be necessary but some sort of aptitude or proficiency testing will also have to be undertaken. Furthermore, twice the number of required guides should undergo initial training, and after a week of training, this figure could be reduced to the desired number by means of a test.
6. The commercial gill net fishery which operates from the slipway near Jozini is currently poorly managed and lacks equity in distribution of benefits. It would be advantageous to develop a sustainable management plan for this sector as it could provide direct benefits to the local Jozini community. Furthermore, the local gill net fishery could compliment the tourist industry in the area by providing a rural fishing-village ambiance, provided that it has access to adequate facilities and is properly and hygienically managed.
7. The boathouse/shed and the slipway in Jozini is an asset that could contribute significantly to the development of a community-based fish guiding program. These facilities are owned by DWAF and it is recommended that application to make use of these facilities should be made to the appropriate authority. The gill net fishers and fish buyers could also utilise the boathouse/shed and slip way in Jozini; with adequate management the gill net fishery could complement tourism-based fishery in the area.
8. Fishing guides could work, during the winter months when the number of sports fishers decreases, as river guides along the floodplain below the dam. A trip of the full length of the system would entail probably two or three overnight stops, so there is scope for further tourism ventures in that area. It was not in the scope of this study to investigate

the potential of a community guiding operation on the floodplain but it is recommended that such a study be done as an extension or corollary to this one. It is recommended that the proposed river guiding venture be investigated further. Included within this will be an assessment of the possibility of establishment of community-run accommodation units at one or two venues along the river. This project has the potential of becoming larger than the Pongolapoort Dam fisher guide program discussed here.

9. The Rural Fisheries Programme at Rhodes University would like the opportunity to make a formal presentation to the stakeholders around the dam (i.e. local municipalities, tribal authorities, nature conservation, and lodge owners). If possible, it is suggested that the meeting take place in the form of a workshop and that the sponsors of the programme attend. In this way the opportunity may be used both to obtain further input from the stakeholders and for the sponsors to hear, at first hand, the deliberations and opinions of local people. At this workshop the details of the proposed project could be discussed and the roles of the various stakeholders in developing this resource could be identified and milestones for the implementation phase be determined. Furthermore, at this meeting the need to develop a greater tourism plan for this area would be stressed, as it is of vital importance for the sustainability of this proposed project that it is supported within a broader framework to promote tourism in the area and to ensure that the local community are a recognised player.

7. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX I – Abbreviations

DOT	Department of Transport
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
FGASA	Field Guides Association of South Africa
FOSAF	Federation of Southern African Flyfishers
RFP	Rural Fisheries Programme
THETA	Tourism, Hospitality, and Education Training Association

APPENDIX II – Current Fishing & Guiding Services

The following is an advertisement which provides an indication of the value of the recreational fishery and current guide service on the Pongolapoort Dam.

IRIE TIGER FISHING SAFARIS

CHRIS RIPPON CELL: 083 357 6518
 PO Box 1100, Pongola, 3170, South Africa
 Email: irietiger@absamail.co.za

RATES 2004

(Valid till 31 August 2004)

CHARTERS

16 ft 6 bass type boat

R550 per boat – Half day

R800 per boat – Full day

Conventional 3 pax

Fly fishing 2 pax

R60 Rod Hire per day (lost or damaged tackle to be charged for)

19 ft Deep Sea Boat

R650 per boat - 1/2 day

R1000 per boat – Full day

Conventional 4 -5 pax

GUIDING

R350 Half day

R450 Full day

R450 Half or Full days – Public Holidays or Weekends (max 2 days)

LIVE BAIT

R3 per fish – Tilapia

Minimum daily order – 50 fish

Maximum daily order – 100 fish

CONDITIONS

Charters/Guiding:

50% Deposit on confirmation of the booking and the remaining 50% 21 days prior to the arrival date.

Cancellations: Irie Tiger Fishing Safaris retains the right to with hold 50% deposit if cancelled 14 days prior to date of booking. Cancellations must be in writing.

No Show: 100% will be charged.

Live Bait:

50% Deposit on confirmation of the booking and the remaining 50% on the day of collection.

Cancellations: Irie Tiger Fishing Safaris retains the right to with hold 50% deposit if cancelled 14 days prior to collection date. Cancellations must be in writing.

No Show: 100% will be charged.

APPENDIX III – GANT Chart

