**PROFILE: HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

**WHO ARE WE?**

The Harry Gwala District Municipality is located to the South West of the KwaZulu-Natal province. Its population is sparsely spread throughout an area of 10 618.0 km2 . The Harry Gwala District municipality forms part of the border between KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape Province. The Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43) is composed of the following four local municipalities: UBuhlebezwe; Dr. Nkosazane Dlamini Zuma; Greater Kokstad and UMzimkhulu.

**Historical Perspective**

The southern section of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site falls within the Harry Gwala District. This uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site forms part of the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Area which was established in 2001 between Lesotho and South Africa. On 22 June 2013 this Transfrontier Conservation Area was designated as a Transfrontier World Heritage Site when UNESCO inscribed Lesotho’s Sehlabathebe National Park as an extension to South Africa’s uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site. The Transfrontier World Heritage Site is now to be named the Maloti Drakensberg Transboundary World Heritage Site (Peace Parks Foundation).

**Demographic Profile**

The Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43) is one of the ten District Municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal Province and is located South-West of the province. The District Municipality forms part of the border between KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape Province. The municipality area size is 10 618.0 km2  and the population spread is 48.1 people per square kilometer. Key rivers in the district are the UMzimkhulu and Umkomaas rivers

**Population by and number of wards per local municipality**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Municipality** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** | **Number of wards** | **No. of Households** |
| **Harry Gwala District Municipality** | **239582** | **271284** | **510 865** | **61** | **122 973** |
| Greater Kokstad Local Municipality | 36878 | 39875 | 76753 | 10 | 17 842 |
| UBuhlebezwe Local Municipality | 55513 | 62834 | 118346 | 14 | 26 801 |
| UMzimkhulu Local Municipality | 90459 | 106827 | 197286 | 22 | 49 616 |
| Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality | 56732 | 61748 | 118480 | 15 | 28 714 |

**REGIONAL CONTEXT**

The Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43) is one of the ten District Municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal Province and is located South-West of the province. The Harry Gwala District Municipality is located in KwaZulu-Natal, approximately 250 kilometres south of the major metropolitan area of eThekwini and it forms part of the border between KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape Province. The District Management Area (DMA) is located to the West of the District and it forms part of the border between the KwaZulu-Natal Province and Lesotho (Harry Gwala IDP).

Harry Gwala District Municipality includes the southernmost part of the UKhahlamba Drakensberg National Park adjacent to Lesotho and borders Eastern Cape Province in the west. The municipality area size is 11 127. 89997 km2 (COGTA). Key rivers in the district are the UMzimkhulu, Umkomaas, Ibisi and Umzimvubu rivers which run from the mountains of Drakensberg to the coastal shores of KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape respectively. At approximately 1,054,700 hectares, this district has a population density of approximately 0.5 persons per hectare.