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A BRITISH tourist drowned at St Lucia on Sunday.

TRAGEDY

British tourist drowns at remote beach

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A BRITISH man, 47, has drowned at the Cape Vidal Nature Reserve in St Lucia, KwaZulu-Natal.

The National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) said its St Lucia duty crew were activated following reports from Ezemvelo Wildlife rangers of a drowning in progress just after 1pm on Sunday.

"An NSRI rescue vehicle, carrying NSRI rescue swimmers, and towing an NSRI rescue craft, responded and joined Ezemvelo Wildlife rangers on the scene," said NSRI spokesperson Craig Lambinon.

"A man, aged 47, a British tourist, was recovered from the surf zone by NSRI rescue swimmers. Sadly the man was found to be deceased," he said.

"It appears that while on an arranged tour to Cape Vidal Nature Reserve the man reportedly went for a swim at the beach.

"There he was observed to be in difficulties in the surf zone and the alarm was raised."

He said the scene was handed over to police and an inquest docket had been opened.

Lambinon expressed his condolences to the victim's family.

In a similar tragedy, a 47-year-old Russian tourist drowned at uMhlanga Beach in February last year.

The man is believed to have drowned at an unprotected beach.

At the time of the drowning, Shawn Herbst from Netcare 911 said they received reports of the drowning and an aerial search was conducted.

He said it was understood that the man and his wife had been swimming at Durban view park but he got into trouble and got swept in by the current. The tourist was finally located by a kite surfer who brought him back on to shore. He was declared deceased on the scene.