

# Mainstreaming on Marine and Coastal Issues into National Planning and Budgetary Processes -

## Marine Protected Areas as an example (MDG 7)

By

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# Outline:

- Background
- MPA issues as an example for National Planning
- National Protected Area Expansion Strategy
- Rural Livelihoods and MPAs
- Socio-economic development through ecotourism



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# Background

- Unique coastline – meeting place of 2 oceans.
- 3200km long, links east & west coast of Africa.
- High marine diversity - over 10 000 species of marine plants & animals - most of which are endemic.
- $\frac{1}{3}$  of the population live along the coast.
- The estimated value of coastal goods and services is about R168 billion annually -35 % of our annual GDP.



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# Conti..

- South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs, Branch Marine & Coastal Management is responsible for:
  - protection of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecological processes,
  - sustainable use of marine resources through permitting of activities
  - monitoring, control and surveillance through effective compliance
  - research into marine and coastal issues to inform management
- Key mandate:
  - Promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources to enhance economic growth and poverty alleviation.



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# Marine Protected Area issues as an example for National Planning

- Proclaimed under the Marine Living Resources Act (48 of 1998):
  - For the protection of fauna and flora
  - To facilitate fisheries management (including protection and allowing recovery)
  - To diminish conflict between competing use
- 20 MPAs covering 20% of coastline protection (9% “no take”).
- Expansion of community benefits.
- Encouraging ecotourism through non-consumptive use.



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# Key focus areas for MPA management

- To co-ordinate planning for the expansion of a national set of MPAs which will protect our marine biodiversity.
- To unlock socio-economic opportunities provided by MPAs, particularly to local communities and users (but maintaining functioning and integrity).
- To manage existing MPAs through management contracts with agencies.
- To co-ordinate the development and implementation of MPA management plans through co-operation with management agencies and stakeholders.



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# What have we developed to deal with these issues?

- National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (2008)- National Strategy for increasing protection of the environment due to climate change & to ensure ecological sustainability.
- SA's first national assessment of priority areas for PA expansion.
- Includes marine, wetlands, terrestrial, estuarine and riverine ecosystems.
- Important contributions of Protected Areas:
  - Biodiversity conservation
  - Climate change resilience
  - Support rural livelihoods
  - Local economic development



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# NPAES Cont...

- Sets targets for expansion (15% no-take and 25% partial protection)
  - 88km inshore
  - 52 000km<sup>2</sup> offshore MPAs
  - 23 000km<sup>2</sup> Offshore Prince Edward island EEZ (SA's territory)
- Provides maps on most important/urgent areas in need of expansion.
- Identifies Research gaps for MPAs eg mapping and classification of marine ecosystems, habitats, ecological processes and pressures of marine environment.
- Implementers:
  - MPA managing agencies,
  - National Government,
  - WHS authoritiesDevelop an implementation plan based on targets and focus areas.
- 20 year strategy, revised every 5 years.



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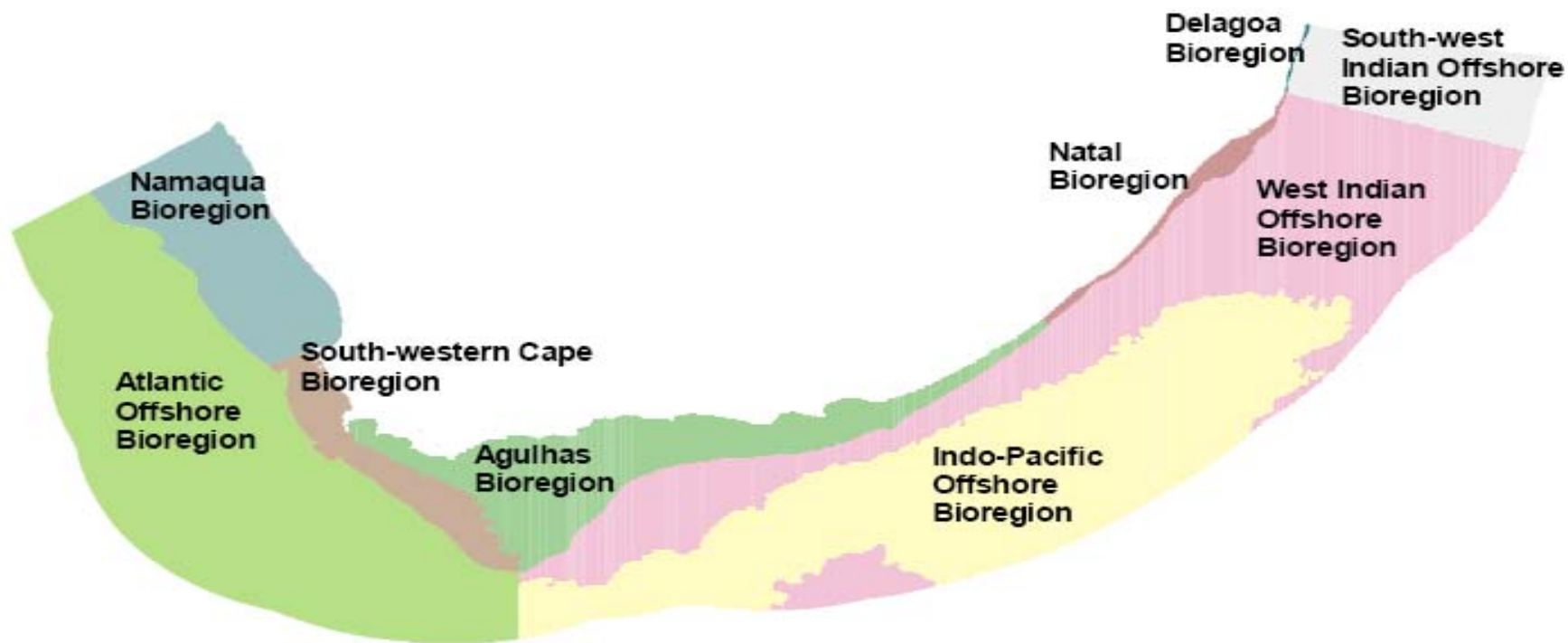
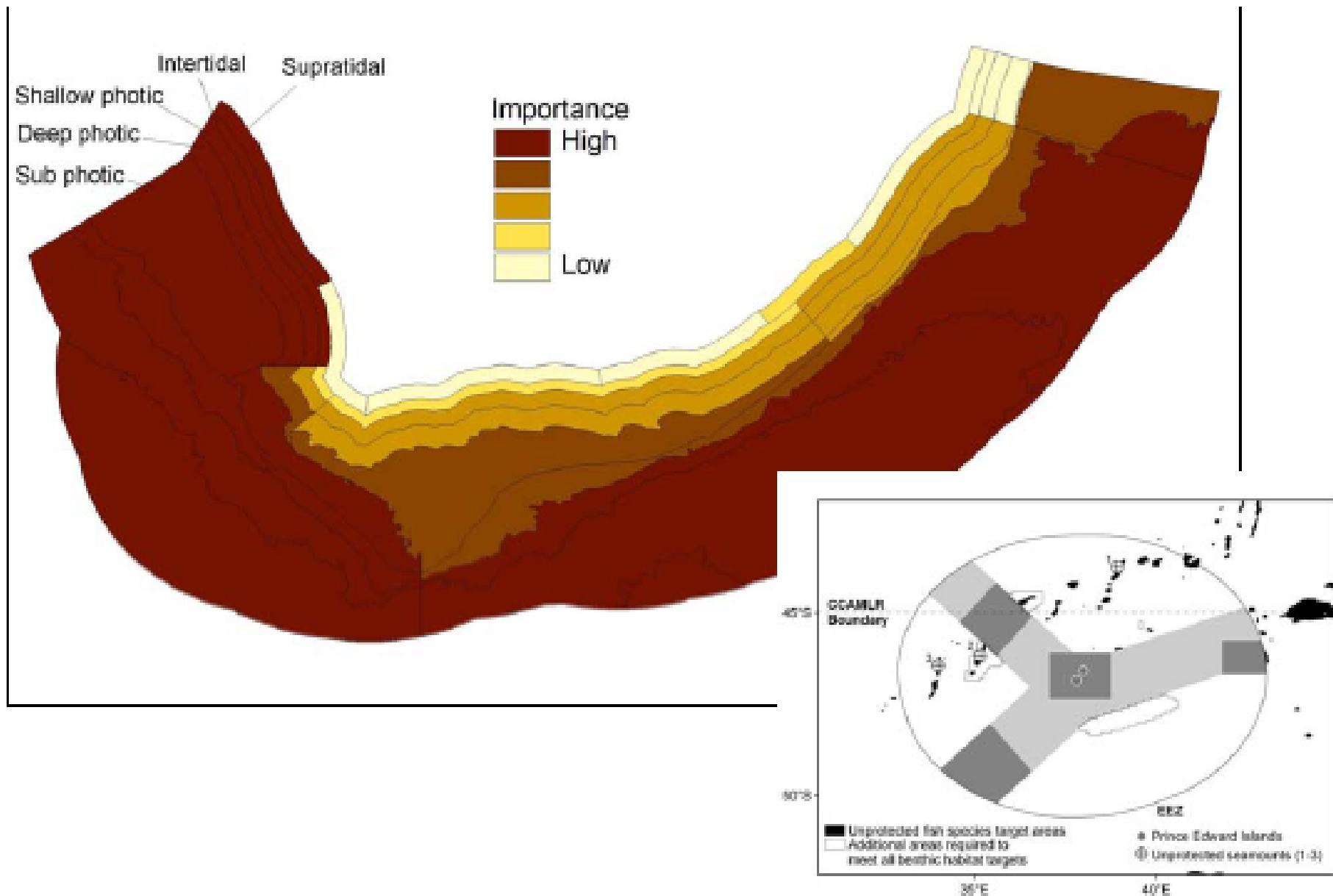


Figure 3: South Africa's marine bioregions

**Targets for marine biodiversity conservation are set per “bio-region”**

**Aim : Representative set of all ecosystems**



Namaqua Inshore and Offshore & Prince Edward Island Offshore were identified as priority areas for expansion

# What has SA done to address the outcomes of the NPAES?

- Operational partnership contracts are now in place for 19 of our 20 MPAs, with managing agencies
- Managing agencies will be able to develop implementation plan for expansion.
- Proposed new MPAs are being followed up: Prince Edward Island, Border, Namaqua.
- Research is being done on the identified research gaps- various workshops held.



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# Rural Livelihoods in MPA management

- Draft MPA Policy – MPA expansion for increased conservation, coastal livelihoods opportunities, ecotourism within MPAs
- Maintaining a balance of these 3.
- The policy advises (in line with the NPAES) that future MPAs should take consideration of coastal livelihoods.
- This may involve a change in regulations e.g. opening up of “no take” areas for communities.
- A proposal for the opening of the Dwesa Cwebe MPA for community subsistence access.
- Harvesting of linefish for own consumption or sale with strict permit conditions.
  - Bag limits
  - Closed seasons for certain species
  - Daylight fishing only
  - Inspection of catch by Monitors



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# Ecotourism and MPA Management

- R15.2 billion with 20 million international & local visitors annually.
- Economic activities which are non-consumptive in MPAs are promoted.
- 31 blue flag beaches - cleanliness and environmental management.
- Tourism activities within MPAs:
  - Recreational fishing - over 750 000 anglers (1.3 billion in revenue)
  - Eco-filming (eg. for BBC and SABC) is a major industry
  - Scuba diving - over 100 000 divers (R36 million).
  - Site seeing tours – harbours tours.
  - Boat based whale watching - Southern right whales and humpback. MLRA prohibits people from approaching whales closer than 300m. Regulated through strict permit conditions, code of conduct
  - White Shark cage diving- managed through regulations, permit conditions and a code of conduct.



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# Policy for BBWW & WSCD

- MLRA- provides legislative framework for conservation of spp through sustainable use and fair & equitable access.
- Growing industries, benefits to local communities, needing regulation.
- BBWW-first regulated in 1998 with few permit regulations.
- WSCD- first regulated in 1991, as the white shark on threatened list, slow growth rate, low reproductive capacity.
- Policy gazetted in July 2008. Applications received.
- Currently busy with allocation process - Strict criteria.
- Objectives:
  - regulate the industry,
  - allocation of greater number of permits to grow it,
  - transform the industry



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**Marine Protected Areas: Managing our coastline for conservation, fisheries, people and tourism.**



**THANK YOU!**