

Priority Actions:

Setting priorities for action in 2012

In setting priority actions for 2012 it is important to ensure alignment within the MPA community in a manner that will be consistent. It will be necessary to mobilize & bring communities on board in a way that we all strive for **opening & maintaining dialogues. Awareness-raising is therefore critical to this successful roll-out.**

Finalizing a DEA & DAFF MoU regarding MPAs

Setting up the MPA Advisory Group

Review of MPAs – core objectives (include social dimensions), MPA boundaries, zonation and current regulations – are they achieving objectives? – take action to ensure they meet objectives, biodiversity aspects including ecosystem representation, threatened species

Compliance improvement across all sectors

Resolving current MPAs where conflict issues occur

Securing budgets for priority monitoring

Priority Area (new & expansion)

1. Prince Edward Islands
2. Offshore
3. Namaqualand
4. Algoa Bay

Priority Area (re-zonation)

5. Bettys Bay
6. Goukamma
7. Robberg
8. Aliwal Shoal

Invite DEA Protected Area staff to the 2012 MPA Forum

Invite the Minister to the 2012 MPA Forum

Ensuring that the correct messaging pertaining to MPAs is given at the CEO Protected Area Forum

Reviewing current DEA/Conservation agency MoU's to ensure:-

9. Greater accountability
10. Funds allocated to MPAs are ring-fenced for this purpose and are NOT used for terrestrial protected area management
11. Ensuring that all vacant posts are filled timeously and by MPA qualified and competent individuals
12. Ensuring that all MPA equipment is properly maintained
13. Setting consequences for not fulfilling the agreement

NBA and OMPA information needs to be readily available in an easy to understand manner for decision makers to use to defend MPAs against conflicting marine actions eg. mining in sensitive marine habitats.

Ensuring tighter integration of “Working for the Coast” into MPA projects such as monitoring

Embedding MPA related training into organizational HR policy

Using Outcome 10 opportunities to embed MPA priorities into those of government

Set an implementation plan for 10 OMPA sites

Consider the consequences of the off-road driving ban on increased fishing effort within estuaries

Develop a co-ordinated awareness raising plan for MPAs that makes use of iconic imagery as a central tool and raises awareness amongst MPA personnel regarding the role and importance of MPAs

Develop a national prioritization for integrated and consistent monitoring for MPAs