



MPA Forum 2014

Themes & 12 Month Action Plans for 2014/2015

The following themes were identified as the priority themes for the MPA Forum during the 2014/15 year. Specific actions were identified within each theme which the Forum stakeholders could follow up on during the year. A leader was identified for each theme who was given the responsibility of coordinating the actions and providing regular feedback on their progress to the broader MPA Forum. The intention is to provide quarterly/biannual feedback to the MPA Forum mailing list, with a final report back planned for the next MPA Forum. The themes are as follows:

1. Planning

- What specific actions will we take in the next 12 months to lead to the development of these plans?
 - System for acknowledging receipt of the MPA reports and a response measure from national government.
 - Coastal committee systems in each province need to be identified and their procedures provided to all MPA managers as a possible solution to MPA blockages.
 - Formal request for timeous delivery of formal letter of national priorities to the conservation agencies (End of March) and response from conservation agencies.
 - Submission to conservation agencies that a person be appointed with the responsibility for coordinating marine planning, management and reporting.
 - Develop basic minimum guidelines for managers on how to set targets.

Leader: Pierre De Villiers

2. Research

- What are the 6 main research needs common to most MPAs?
 - The need to mainstream baseline monitoring programmes through MPAS (natural and social)
 - Understanding the consumptive and non-consumptive use of MPAs, potential sustainable harvesting volumes.
 - Understanding how MPAs link up with broader coastal landscapes
 - Assess how best to achieve the balance between national and local objectives
 - How do we assimilate research and share amongst stakeholders
- What targets can we set to meet these research needs?

- Need a comprehensive inventory of research past and present of research that has been done that is relevant to MPAs.
- What specific actions will we take in the next 12 months to lead to meeting our research needs?
 - Develop guidelines/parameters/framework for a research inventory (possibly approach SAEON/SANBI)
 - Communicate key research priorities to government and academic institutions

Leader: Alexis Olds/ Alan Boyd

3. Investigation and Prosecution Support

- What specific actions will we take in the next 12 months to strengthen investigation and prosecution support?
 - Compile a 10 year review of previous cases and outcomes with the MPA
 - Compile a Pro forma template regarding 'evidence in aggravation of sentence' for his/her own MPA
 - Obtain contact details for chief magistrate/chief prosecutor for his/her MPA judicial cluster
 - Compile and send informational briefing pack to chief magistrate and chief prosecutor for distribution to all magistrates and prosecutors in the cluster
 - Give evidence in aggravation of sentence following each conviction in court for MPA related offences
 - Initiate amendments to MPA legislation through DEA
 - Identify local crime forums (wildlife crime forums, JOC, NPA case flow meetings, PPC and BCOCC); identify and report back on which ones he/she will now be attending
 - Identify and list MPA/SAPS training needs regarding his/her local MPA and facilitate 1 training day.
 - Identify other bodies of legislation that may also have relevance to MPA offences (POCA) and have them available for magistrates/prosecutors to use when framing charges.

Leader: Wayne Evans

4. Engaging our Stakeholders (fishers, tourism operators, communities, municipalities etc.)

- What specific actions will we take in the next 12 months to better engage our stakeholders
 - Each MPA should develop a list of specific stakeholders and how they should communicate with each group.
 - Every MPA should hold at least one stakeholder meeting within the next year, minutes distributed, feedback to stakeholders, responsibilities assigned, solution options provided by stakeholders.
 - Develop an action plan/accountability ladder for what to do when dealing with stuck issues. (Coastal committee guidelines already exist).

- Information on MPAs should be included in EcoSchools programme
- Elements of the human dimension guidelines need to be integrated into environmental planning processes.
- Provide MPA managers with final guidelines on human dimensions
- Basic general guide to understanding MPAs (basic MPA science) targeted at MPAs, municipalities, libraries. (multi-lingual)

Leader: Jackie Sunde

5. Future Challenges

- What are the biggest future challenges likely to be faced by most MPAs?
 - Developments (industrial and residential)
 - Mining
 - Reliance on resources
 - Dislodged users
 - Alternative revenue
 - Prioritising MPAs within institutions
 - Climate change

- What specific actions will we take in the next 12 months to prepare to face these challenges?
 - Managers must participate in the provincial coastal setback processes
 - Continue commenting on applications for development and putting conditions into RODs
 - Develop success document and process description of SANParks development forum in Garden Route for distribution to the MPA Managers.
 - High-level agreement needed between DEA and DMR (circulate Mining and Biodiversity Guidelines to MPA Managers)
 - Raising awareness of the importance of the resource
 - Make information on implementation fees for EPWP programmes available to MPA managers (Share SANParks experience of working with EPWP)
 - Provide MPA Managers guidance on organisations involved in social development and can help with local alternative options. (Need for high level discussions between DEA and other Departments e.g. DAFF (SSF directors, DPW etc..).
 - There is a need for a transparent process for the verification of traditional rights
 - Advise managers on alternative income streams, early detection systems
 - Make formal representations to improve VMS monitoring between DAFF and DEA.

Leader: Andre Riley

6. Capacity Needs

- What specific actions will we take in the next 12 months that will lead to addressing these gaps?
 - Do a skills audit to understand what skills exist within each organisation

- Review minimum standards for different staff within MPA management authorities, standardise
- Develop consolidated list of training opportunities available to MPA staff
- Include planned and needed training courses in MPA quarterly reports. Collate at a national level to develop national database.
- Repository for MPA staff to share questions/challenges with broader MPA community.

Leader: Mark Gerrard