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An underwater photograph of a kelp forest. Tall, thin kelp stalks rise from the seabed towards the surface, where sunlight filters through. Several fish are visible, including a large orange fish in the foreground and several smaller dark fish further back.

STATE OF MANAGEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Designed by The Media Chilli

Front cover image by Thomas P. Peschak

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ABBREVIATIONS

APO	Annual plan of operation
BRUV	Baited remote underwater video
CAPEX	Capital expenditure
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDF	Conservation development framework
CMP	Coastal management programme
CPUE	Catch per unit effort
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DEA: O&C	Department of Environmental Affairs: Branch – Oceans & Coasts
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (up to 2010)
DPW	Department of Public Works
ECPTA	Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EKZNW	Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife
EMI	Environmental Management Inspectors
EPWP	Extended Public Works Programme
FCO	Fisheries control officer
GN	Government Notice
IBA	Important bird area
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IMP	Integrated Management Plan
iWPA	iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority
KPAs	Key Performance Areas
MCM	Marine and Coastal Management (up to 2009)
METT	Monitoring effectiveness tracking tool
MLRA	Marine Living Resources Act 18 of 1998
MLRF	Marine Living Resources Fund
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NEM: BA	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act
NEM: ICMA	National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act
NEM: PAA	National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act
NMBM	Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality

NMMU	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
NPAES	National Protected Area Expansion Strategy
NSBA	National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment
PA	Protected area
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
ROD	Record of decision
SAEON	South African Environmental Observation Network
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resource Agency
SAIAB	South African Institute for Aquatic Biology
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SANCCOB	South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds
SANParks	South African National Parks
SAPS	South African Police Service
SDP	Spatial development plan
SMP	Strategic management plan
SSF	Small-scale fisheries
TMNMPA	Table Mountain National Park MPA
WCNP	West Coast National Park
WHCA	World Heritage Convention Act
WHS	World Heritage Site
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are increasingly recognised as a key tool in fisheries management and biodiversity conservation, and form the foundation

of marine conservation in South Africa. Following previous assessments in 2003 and 2009 of the state of MPA management in South Africa, a repeat assessment was conducted in 2013 to evaluate the progress made through the actions of national and provincial agencies involved in MPA management to identify areas for improvement going forward.

Managers from each of the 23 coastal MPAs were interviewed and representatives of each of the seven management authorities completed questionnaires. Each MPA was visited and discussions were held with MPA staff in order to gain a broader perspective of the issues faced. An updated management effectiveness tracking tool (METT) scoring system was used to assess and summarise the information.

Overall, the study found that many of the challenges that were identified in 2009 persisted in 2013 indicating the need for further detailed examination of these challenges and the barriers to addressing them effectively. Despite the ongoing challenges, it must be noted that progress has been made in some areas through a combination of enthusiastic and motivated MPA managers and collaborations with relevant institutes and stakeholders.

Since the previous assessment in 2009 there has been increased recognition by management authorities of the wide range of management functions that are critical to the successful management of an MPA. However, the extent to which these functions have been carried out has been limited in most cases by inadequate staff numbers. This limitation has been exacerbated by a reduction in the support from fishery control officers (FCOs) that came about as a result of the division in 2009 of Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) into the Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

Human resources are currently focused on enforcement activities in most MPAs. In MPAs where non-compliance is a major issue and there are too few staff members, other important management functions, such as monitoring and education, are often overlooked. Where resources are limited, the enthusiasm and drive of the individual appears to be able to overcome many hurdles. However, demotivated or disinterested managers should be reinvigorated or replaced.

The appointment of sufficient staff has been limited by budgets and procurement processes. Although budgets are generally secure over a five-year period, the rate of inflation and increases in running costs are often not considered in the budgeting process. This in effect means that the available budget to achieve management objectives is decreasing year-on-year. Budgetary requirements need to be identified for each MPA and presented in a defensible and motivated manner. Strategic level plans should be available to inform this process and should take into consideration staffing requirements during peak holiday seasons and the rate at which capital equipment and infrastructure will need replacing. Where management plans are outdated or unavailable these need to be reviewed or drafted with the involvement of the MPA manager and in consultation with stakeholders. Operational plans should only be developed once a budget is secure as these need to be consistent with available staff, funds and strategic level planning.

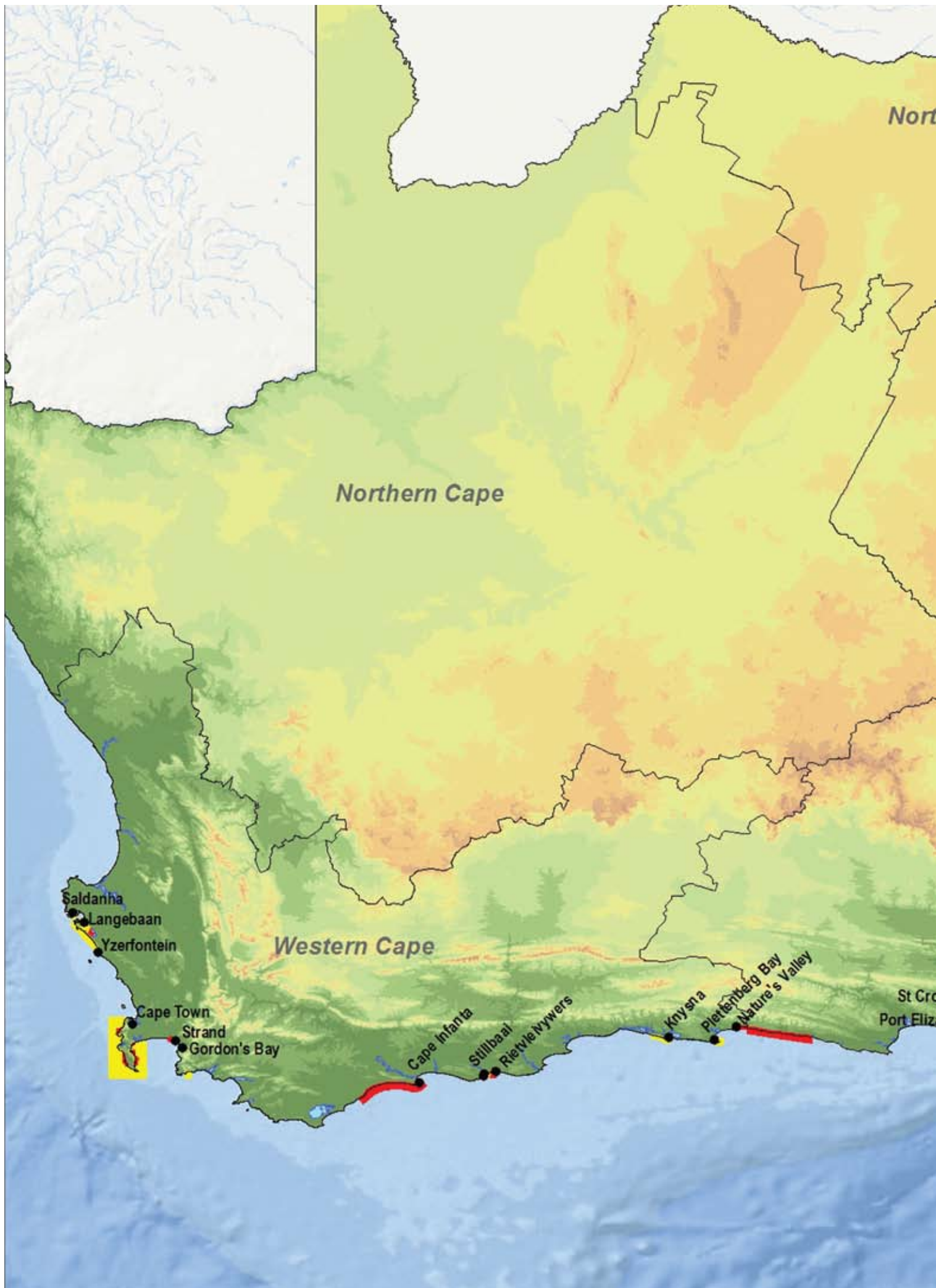
Skilled staff, particularly skippers, are lacking in many of the MPAs. It was also indicated that further training, particularly in compliance, is required at several MPAs. It is recommended that budget be allocated to training courses and that a skills development programme be established between MPAs whereby a system of staff exchange takes place to enable the development of hard skills through mentorship.

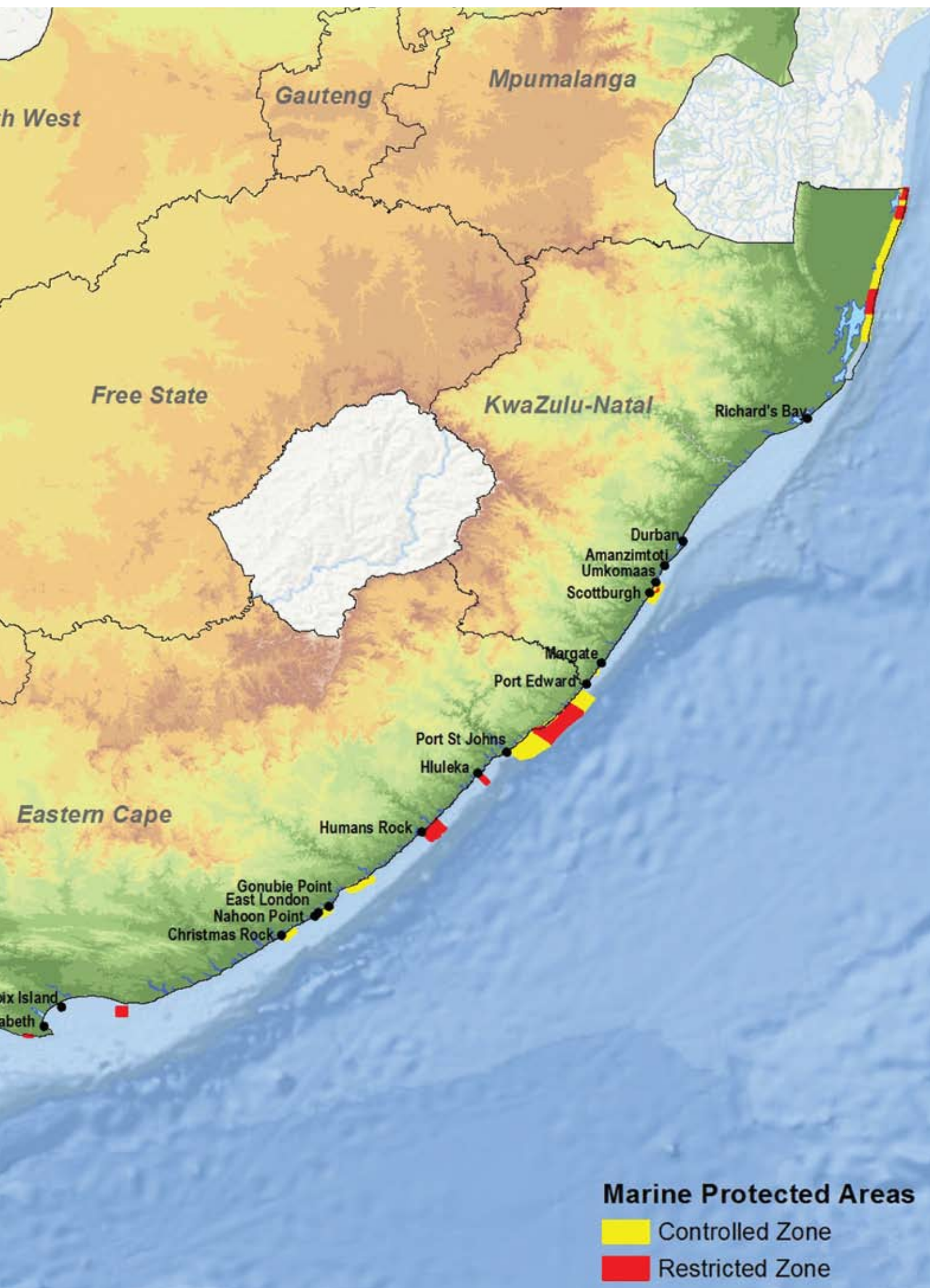
The awareness around, and active management of, heritage resources also remains a challenge in most MPAs. Support from the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) is needed to fully understand the needs of archaeological and historical management within MPAs in South Africa.

Enforcement continues to be a major challenge in most MPAs. The primary hindrances to enforcement activities include inadequate staffing, the lack of suitable regulations and poor morale. Morale would be boosted and enforcement efficiency improved if the judiciary became more aware of MPA issues and if all necessary enforcement actions were supported at the highest governmental levels without discrimination between law breakers. A lack of clear objectives for each MPA and a similar lack of understanding of the role and importance of MPAs at higher political levels poses a continual risk of existing MPAs being opened or de-proclaimed.

Summary of recommendations to address some of the challenges for MPA management include:

- There is a need to develop high-level understanding and support for MPAs amongst key government departments. This could be facilitated through the development of specific objectives for each MPA.
- Increased funding needs to be directed towards MPA management. Insufficient budgets are one of the key limiting factors to more effective MPA management as management authorities are currently unable to secure skilled staff and equipment to effectively implement MPA management plans.
- Stakeholder engagement has improved across most MPAs, however conflict between local communities and MPA authorities remains a major barrier to effective management at a number of MPAs in South Africa. These conflicts could be significantly reduced through better stakeholder engagement and consideration of the human dimensions of MPA management.
- Many MPA management plans need to be updated, and these plans should then be used to develop the annual plan of operations which is linked to available budgets.
- Improved management is often directly attributable to enthusiastic and motivated MPA managers and staff, and these individuals should be recognised and rewarded for their ongoing commitment to the sector.
- The development of a judiciary awareness programme for courts dealing with MPA issues would contribute to improved compliance amongst MPA stakeholders.





CHAPTER 1 BACKGROUND, CONTEXT AND METHODS

1.1 Why MPAs

Although the oceans cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface and play a critical role in regulating our climate and providing food resources and other services to society, less than 2.3% of our world's oceans are formally protected (Spalding et al. 2013), compared to some 10% of our terrestrial areas.

Whilst many marine areas previously enjoyed de facto protection due to their remoteness, advancing technology and progressive over-exploitation of marine resources has led to the rapid expansion of the human footprint on our oceans and the resultant need for more formal protection measures. Many marine industries are also hugely wasteful and have widespread ecosystem impacts beyond their impact on their target resource.

Today, some 90% of the world's commercial fish stocks are considered either fully or over-exploited (FAO2014) and at the same time, coastal environments are facing similar challenges as growing coastal populations have led to increased development pressures such as habitat destruction, pollution and coastal erosion, all of which pose a growing threat to marine biodiversity across the oceans.

In the South African context, the 2011 National Biodiversity Assessment (Sink et al 2012) revealed that fishing is the greatest threat to marine biodiversity with many of South Africa's commercial linefish species considered over-exploited and in some cases collapsed (Mann 2013). Simultaneously, coastal development is placing the greatest pressure on coastal biodiversity. Other noted threats to South Africa's marine biodiversity include reduced freshwater flows into the marine environment, pollution, alien invasive species and climate change.

Sink et al (2012) indicated that most of South Africa's marine resources are over-exploited, several species are threatened and alarmingly 47% of marine and coastal habitat types are threatened.

In the face of these challenges, there is growing global recognition of the importance of proper management of marine resources, with South Africa being at the forefront of developing long-term strategies for the conservation of marine resources. The implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is a management strategy that has been employed worldwide, not only to address many of the threats to marine and coastal ecosystems, but also to meet a wide range of human needs, including education, fisheries management, recreation, income generation and research (Hockey & Branch 1997; Attwood *et al.* 2000).

MPAs are a particularly important tool for fisheries management. The efficiency of MPAs at building up spawning stocks of commercially important species within their boundaries has been well documented (Halpern 2003; Gell & Roberts 2003; Russ et al. 2004; García-Charton et al. 2008; Harmelin-Vivien et al. 2008). Locally, a study conducted in the Tsitsikamma MPA revealed that the density of the commercially important red roman (*Chrysoblephus laticeps*) was approximately 42 times higher in the MPA than in nearby fishing grounds (Buxton & Smale 1989). Cowley *et al* (2002) found that the experimental catch per unit effort (CPUE) for four shore fish species was 5–21 times greater in no take zones than in exploited areas. Similarly the experimental catch per unit effort (CPUE) in the De Hoop Marine Reserve was found to be an order of magnitude higher than from sites outside after seven years of protection (Bennett and Attwood, 1991, 1993).

The increased densities of commercially important species within the boundaries of MPAs are predicted to enhance adjacent fisheries through two mechanisms: the ‘spillover’ or emigration of adults and juveniles across the borders, and the export of pelagic eggs and larvae from restored spawning stocks inside the MPA (Gell & Roberts 2003; García-Charton et al. 2008; López-sanz et al. 2011, Kellner et al. 2008). Direct evidence of spillover has been provided by performing tagging and acoustic tracking studies in South Africa (Attwood & Bennett 1994; Attwood & Cowley 2005). Several studies have also reported benefits of MPAs to local fisheries where higher catches, increased catch rates and a reduction in fishing effort were reported in adjacent fished areas (Russ et al. 2004; Roberts et al. 2001, Halpern et al. 2010), suggesting that benefits of the MPA outweighed the loss of fishing area. A study by Kerwath et al (2013) provided evidence of a rapid increase in the catch rates of red roman (*Chrysoblephus laticeps*) in the vicinity of the Goukamma MPA following its proclamation, with no measurable disadvantages to fishers.

MPAs are not only useful tools for effective fisheries management and species protection, they also provide significant benefits in the form of ecosystem services such as coastal protection, waste assimilation and flood management. If properly designed and managed, MPAs can play vitally important roles in protecting marine habitats and biodiversity through:

- Conserving representative samples of biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Protecting critical sites for the reproduction and growth of species;
- Allowing sites to recover from the stresses of exploitation and other human related impacts;
- Providing settlement and growth areas for marine species so as to provide for spillover of these species into surrounding exploited areas;
- Providing areas for marine-based environmental education and for raising awareness regarding marine related issues;
- Providing sites for nature-based tourism which is carried out in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner, and
- Providing undisturbed sites for scientific research (benchmark) that allow long-term monitoring which helps to guide management of fishery resources in exploited areas.

Several binding and non-binding international environmental instruments advocate the implementation of MPAs as a tool for marine conservation and fisheries management. In 1995 the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity expressed a global consensus, known as the Jakarta Mandate, on the importance of marine and coastal biological diversity. The work programme on marine and coastal biodiversity, which resulted from this ministerial statement, is aimed at establishing and maintaining a global network of MPAs that are effectively managed, ecologically based, and that include a range of levels of protection.

MPA (Marine Protected Area)

For the purpose of this report ‘MPA’ refers to those areas declared under Section 43 of the Marine Living Resources Act 18 of 1998 (MLRA). No definition has been provided in the MLRA for ‘MPA’ and it is assumed that the international understanding of the term applies in the South African context. Broadly defined, a Marine Protected Area is an area of sea and/or coastline that is especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biodiversity and natural and cultural resources through being managed in a structured and legal manner. A broad range of management approaches are applied to MPAs and different zones may exist within an individual MPA. These may vary from complete no-take zones where nothing may be disturbed, caught or removed, such as at the De Hoop MPA in the southern Cape, through to partial-take zones which permit certain activities within the MPA’s boundaries.

1.2 The legal and institutional context of MPAs in South Africa

In South Africa MPAs are proclaimed in terms of Section 43 of the MLRA, which regulates both the exploitation and conservation of marine living resources. Prior to 2010, the MLRA was administered by one national department, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) through its branch Marine and Coastal Management (MCM). In late 2009, this branch was split into the branch Oceans and Coasts within the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA: O&C) and the fisheries division of the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

The mandates of each department with respect to the MLRA were described in the Presidential Proclamation No. 16 of 2013. Section 43 of the MLRA, which provides for the proclamation and administration of MPAs, was entrusted to the Minister of DEA, as well as sections relating to whales, dolphins, turtles and white sharks. All functions and powers relating to fisheries were entrusted to the Minister of DAFF.

South Africa currently has 24 MPAs declared in terms of the MLRA with the Prince Edward Islands MPA in the Southern Ocean being the most recently declared in May 2013. MCM had previously signed memorandum of agreements (MoA) with conservation agencies or municipalities to manage most of the MPAs. These MoAs have since been revised such that the agreements now stand between DEA: O&C and the conservation agencies. Several new agreements have been signed where no management agency had been previously appointed for newly proclaimed MPAs.

The MLRA is currently undergoing amendment such that provisions for MPA proclamation and management may shift to the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEM: PAA). One of the advantages of shifting and amending these provisions is that the NEM: PAA is likely to provide for better control and management of non-consumptive activities in MPAs. However, how this will interplay with the regulation of fisheries within MPAs still remains unclear.

The National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act No. 24 of 2008) (NEM: ICMA) has been promulgated since the 2009 assessment. ICMA defines the coastal zone in South Africa, provides for the co-ordinated and integrated management of the coastal zone, enables the preservation, protection, extension and enhancement of coastal public property and ensures that the public has the right of access to coastal public property.

ICMA provides various means to regulate or restrict the use of land in ecologically sensitive coastal areas and thereby provides a useful supplement to the protection afforded to MPAs through the MLRA. In addition, ICMA calls for the establishment of coastal committees at national, provincial and municipal levels. These committees are a useful channel to enable broad stakeholder engagement and input in MPA related issues.

1.3 Previous state of MPA assessments

In 2003, an assessment of the State of MPA management was undertaken by Lemm and Attwood, which highlighted certain risks and weaknesses in the management of MPAs in South Africa. This report then guided management interventions towards improving MPA management effectiveness over the five-year period up until 2009.

Aphiwe Bewana (University of Cape Town) undertook an assessment of all of South Africa's MPAs in 2008 using the MPA monitoring effectiveness tracking tool (METT) as part of a Master's Degree in Conservation Biology. Unfortunately the results of this assessment were not considered in management planning for the future nor was it used to identify weaknesses in current approaches.

A second assessment of the state of MPA management was conducted during 2009 by Karen Tunley. This study reported on and acknowledged the progress made through the actions of national and provincial agencies involved in MPA management and the NGOs which supported them. A further focus of the 2009 report was to re-prioritise the actions of agencies and NGOs for the near future. Managers from each of the then 22 gazetted MPAs were interviewed and representatives from each of the seven management authorities completed questionnaires. Discussions were also held with biologists and social scientists involved in various MPAs to supplement the information. Each MPA was visited and discussions were held with MPA staff in order to gain a broader perspective of the issues faced. A scoring system was designed that was based on the internationally recognised METT system developed by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the World Bank. The 2009 report contextualised the METT process to fit the South African MPA arena. This was then used to assess and summarise the relevant information.

The key challenges to MPA management highlighted in the 2009 assessment were:

- The objectives for the MPAs, provided in the MLRA, were too narrow, thereby limiting the scope of management capabilities. Furthermore it was felt that the listing of specific objectives for each MPA in the regulations would help to guide management.
- Staff members were in need of skills development particularly those required for sea-going activities.
- A comprehensive national monitoring programme to evaluate management effectiveness and facilitate adaptive management was required.
- There was a lack of adult environmental education programmes specific to MPAs and customised for different user groups.
- Ensuring that stakeholders had the capacity to engage meaningfully with management authorities regarding the management of the MPA posed a challenge in several MPAs.

1.4 Objectives of this assessment

Given the four-year time period since the 2009 report and the major governance and legislative changes that have taken place, a review of the state of MPA management in South Africa was identified as a priority in 2013. In the interim, the 2011 National Biodiversity Assessment (Sink et al 2012) revealed that 40% of marine and coastal habitat types are not represented within the MPA network and a mere 6% of habitats were well protected with sufficient protection from fishing, emphasising the need for proclamation of new MPAs incorporating unprotected habitats. However, the report also recognised that the effective management and regulation of the current MPA network is critical for ensuring those habitats and resources represented in our current MPA network are afforded sufficient protection.

This 2013 assessment was undertaken in situ during the first half of 2013 to re-evaluate the current state of MPA management in South Africa. Note that the 2013 assessment did not include the recently proclaimed Prince Edward Island MPA. The project followed the internationally recognised METT system which has been updated since the 2009 report. Data collected through this approach is broadly but not directly comparable against the previous assessments but gives a clear indication of where progress has been made and where prioritisation is needed within the next three-year period.

The objectives of the assessment are to:

- Assess progress made since 2009 with regards to MPA management (implementation of training courses, development of management plans and agreements, organisation of a manager's forum etc.);
- Visit MPAs and interview managers and any available staff according to the METT;
- Inspect MPAs from an outsiders' perspective to assess levels of efficiency, and
- Produce this report including summaries of findings from interviews and MPA observations and a discussion of strengths and weaknesses and recommendations for the future.

1.5 Data collection

Data was gathered for this assessment using:

- A comprehensive questionnaire based on the METT assessment;
- The questionnaire was completed through an interview and discussion session directed at MPA managers, and
- Site visits to ground truth the METT questionnaire.

1.5.1 Questionnaire

To maximise the potential of protected areas, and to improve management processes, we need to understand the strengths and weaknesses of their management and the threats that they face. The management effectiveness tracking tool (METT) has been developed to help track and monitor progress towards improving management effectiveness.

The original purposes of the METT developed by WWF and the World Bank were that it needed to be:

- Capable of providing a harmonised reporting system for protected area assessment;
- Suitable for replication;
- Able to supply consistent data to allow tracking of progress over time;
- Relatively quick and easy to complete by protected area staff so as not to be reliant on high levels of funding or other resources;
- Capable of providing a “score” if required;
- Based around a system that provides four alternative text answers to each question, strengthening the scoring system;
- Easily understood by non-specialists, and
- Nested within existing reporting systems to avoid duplication of effort.

METT:

The METT provides an overarching framework for assessing management effectiveness of both protected areas and protected area systems, to give guidance to managers. The METT is designed to provide simple, rapid results and be implemented with minimal cost. It provides a means of tracking management effectiveness within a protected area over time. A limitation of the METT is that the results cannot be considered independent given that the questions are answered by the MPA managers (Stolton et al 2007; Leverington et al 2008). Ideally questions should be addressed through a discussion between the project manager, MPA manager, MPA staff, conservation agency staff, stakeholder representatives and external experts (Stolton et al 2007), however, it is not always possible to secure such wide stakeholder participation.

Various iterations of the METT exist. The METT used in this assessment is based on the C.A.P.E METT which was adapted from the World Bank and WWF’s system developed in 2007. This methodology is more detailed and differs to that used in 2009 and thus the scores between assessments are not directly comparable. The Department of Environmental Affairs launched an updated METT questionnaire midway through this assessment. Rather than updating to the new METT, it was decided to continue with the original version so as to ensure consistency across all MPAs.

The METT questionnaire used in this assessment (Appendix 1) has six core components, namely:

1. Context (Where are we now?)
2. Planning (Where do we want to be?)
3. Inputs (What do we need?)
4. Processes (How do we go about it?)
5. Outputs (What were the results?)

6. Outcomes (What did we achieve?)

Each component has a number of specific questions with four possible answers. In each case an answer has an accompanying score associated with it from 0 - 3. The MPA manager provides the most appropriate answer to each question. These scores are then tallied and give an overview of where the strengths and weaknesses of the MPA lie. The scoring system was used to provide a relative measure of adequacy and is advantageous as it allows for comparisons to be made between MPAs and can be used to easily summarise a situation. However, it must be strongly emphasised that scoring is only an indicator and can be interpreted in many different ways. It is important that the discussion and additional notes around each question provides the most relevant information for decision making and determining focal areas of effort that need to be placed in improving the management effectiveness of the said MPA.

1.5.2 Site visits

Each MPA was visited during this assessment and each manager and his team was interviewed using the METT questionnaire except for Sardinia Bay MPA which was not visited but the manager submitted responses to the questionnaire electronically. Time was also spent in the field at each MPA speaking to rangers, noting signage, general activities and the available infrastructure and equipment. Although it is difficult to get a complete understanding of each MPA's challenges during these short field visits, they did allow for a certain amount of ground truthing of the METT questionnaire and added valuable information with regard to management effectiveness.

1.6 Report structure

The first chapter of this report contextualises MPAs and discusses the objectives and methodology of this report. Chapters 2-7 highlight the results of the MPA assessments per organisation, and incorporate the scores and discussions for each MPA. The chapters are arranged by management organisation or agency, and an overall summary of the progress and challenges of each organisation is provided. The general findings of this assessment are discussed in Chapter 8.

CHAPTER 2

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS

2.1 SANParks Overview

1: CONTEXT	VALUE	WCNP	TMMPA	TSITSIKAMMA	B-I MPA
1.1. Legal status	3	3	3	3	3
1.2. Protected area regulations	3	2	2	2	3
1.3. Boundary demarcation	3	2	2	2	2
1.4. Biodiversity resource inventory	3	2	2	2	3
1.5. Heritage resource inventory	3	0.5	1	2.5	3
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>9.5 (63%)</i>	<i>10 (67%)</i>	<i>11.5 (77%)</i>	<i>14 (93%)</i>
2: PLANNING	VALUE	WCNP	TMMPA	TSITSIKAMMA	B-I MPA
2.1. Protected area design	3	2	2	2	2
2.2. Strategic management plan	3	1	0	3	0
2.3. Conservation development framework	3	0.5	0	3	3
2.4. Land and water use planning outside PA	3	0	2	2	3
Supplementary items	5	2	1	4	4.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>5.5 (32%)</i>	<i>5 (29%)</i>	<i>14 (82%)</i>	<i>12.5 (74%)</i>
3: INPUTS	VALUE	WCNP	TMMPA	TSITSIKAMMA	B-I MPA
3.1. Research and monitoring programme	3	1	2	2	2.5
3.2. Human resource capacity	3	1	1	2	2
3.3. Current budget	3	1	2	2	2.5
3.4. Security of budget	3	3	3	3	3
3.5. Income	3	2.5	2	1	N/A
3.5. Law enforcement	3	1.5	1	3	2.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>10 (56%)</i>	<i>11 (61%)</i>	<i>13 (72%)</i>	<i>12.5/15 (83%)</i>

4: PROCESS	VALUE	WCNP	TMPA	TSITSIKAMMA	B-I MPA
4.1. Annual plan of operation	3	1.5	0	0	0
4.2. Biodiversity resource management	3	2	1	3	2.5
4.3. Heritage resource management	3	0.5	1	3	3
4.4. Human resource management	3	2	2.5	2	2.5
4.5. Administrative systems	3	1.5	2	3	1
4.6. Operational equipment and infrastructure	3	2	2	3	2
4.7. Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure	3	2	2	2.5	2
4.8. Education and awareness programme	3	3	2	2	2
4.9. Neighbours	3	2.5	2	2	2
4.10. Advisory committee/Forum	3	2.5	0	2	2
4.11. Community partners	3	3	2	2	0
4.12. Commercial tourism	3	2.5	2	2	N/A
4.13. Performance evaluation system	3	1.5	1	3	2.5
Supplementary items	3	3	0.5	3	1
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>29.5 (70%)</i>	<i>20 (48%)</i>	<i>32.5 (77%)</i>	<i>25.5/39 (65%)</i>
5: OUTPUTS/ OUTCOMES	VALUE	WCNP	TMPA	TSITSIKAMMA	B-I MPA
5.1. Visitor facilities	3	1	0	3	2
5.2. Ecological condition assessment	3	1.5	2	3	2
5.3. Heritage condition assessment	3	1	0	3	3
5.4. Protection systems	3	2	2	2	2.5
5.5. Economic and social benefit assessment	3	3	2	2	2
Supplementary items	2	2	0.5	2	1
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>10.5 (66.5%)</i>	<i>6.5 (41%)</i>	<i>15 (94%)</i>	<i>12.5 (78%)</i>
Total (Score)	109/109	65/109	52.5/109	86/109	77/103
Total (Percentage)	100%	60%	48%	79%	75%

2.2 West Coast National Park MPA

2.2.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The West Coast National Park (WCNP) MPAs are of national and global significance. The marine habitats represented by the five MPAs within the WCNP include exposed and sheltered sandy beaches and rocky shores, a lagoon, mud flats, salt marshes, subtidal reefs and sandy benthos. Malgas, Jutten and Marcus Islands support breeding colonies of several species of IUCN Red Data List of seabirds and are thus important for seabird conservation. Sixteen Mile Beach is situated on the west side of the peninsula and is representative of exposed West Coast sandy beaches.

Langebaan Lagoon, the only true lagoon system in South Africa, supports a rich bird life and is a declared Ramsar Site (a wetland of international importance). The lagoon also has a rich diversity of marine invertebrates and seaweeds and a total of 34 fish species have been recorded (Hanekom et al 2009). Langebaan has become a popular holiday destination and the lagoon attracts recreational activities such as power boating, sailing, water skiing, kite surfing, and recreational fishing. Furthermore the islands and lagoon are unique sites for research and education.

Objectives:

- To maintain physical and ecological integrity of the marine environment;
- To manage zones A and B of the lagoon effectively with regards to ecological integrity and use;
- To manage the use of the lagoon effectively so that the experiences of different visitor user groups are enhanced, and
- Ensure effective compliance.

Assets:

- The Langebaan Lagoon is Ramsar Site;
- The offshore islands in Saldanha Bay are designated as important bird areas (IBAs) for IUCN Red Data List of seabirds;
- Langebaan Lagoon is also a tourism hub, and
- Cultural fishing rights.

Risks:

- Water quality degradation by pollution;
- Offshore islands (Jutten, Malgas and Marcus) are situated in close proximity to the Saldanha Bay harbour and are therefore at risk of oil pollution should there be an incident with a ship in the harbour.
- Alien biota such as the Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*), the Pacific oyster (*Crassostera gigas*) and further alien marine organism invasion due to shipping is also a risk,
- Heavy metal and other pollutants related to iron ore, and
- Poaching and over utilising natural/ marine resources.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme needs to be designed and implemented.
- Staff shortages need to be addressed.
- Revised and updated training is needed for MPA staff.
- Education programmes and workshops need to target the affected communities and resource users.
- Improved boundary markers and signs need to be erected.
- A user-friendly brochure specific to the MPA needs to be produced and distributed to tackle shops, launch sites and gates, and on patrols and in programmes.
- There needs to be meaningful engagement with local stakeholders using varied methods according to the community characteristics.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

It is clear from the assessment that the current team managing the MPA is extremely dedicated and is working hard at ensuring effective management. However, it must be noted that the WCNP MPA complex is probably one of the most complicated MPAs to manage in South Africa and therefore needs sufficient funding and staffing components.

The overall ecological footprint and integrity of the WCNP is being diminished due to the developmental impacts from all sectors. This has already been highlighted through the substantial loss of sea grass bed habitat in the lagoon and the reduction in bird numbers experienced (Clark et al 2013). It is strongly recommended that a conservation development framework be developed for this park that clearly delineates areas where development is allowed and how such developments will be managed in relation to ecological processes. Full inter-governmental support will be needed for this framework. In addition, staffing support should be provided to deal with the high number of developmental EIAs for the area which require SANPark's comment and input.

Staffing quotas are still insufficient to manage the high numbers of visitors during the peak and holiday seasons. There is a large and growing non-consumptive user market that is currently not paying any fees and yet makes extensive use of the MPA and lagoon. Though this group does not pay any fees, they require constant compliance monitoring and therefore drain MPA resources. A permitting and payment system could be considered to assist in easing the management of this sector. In addition, the current visitor facilities battle to handle the high-season influx of visitors with insufficient ablutions and congestion at slipways.

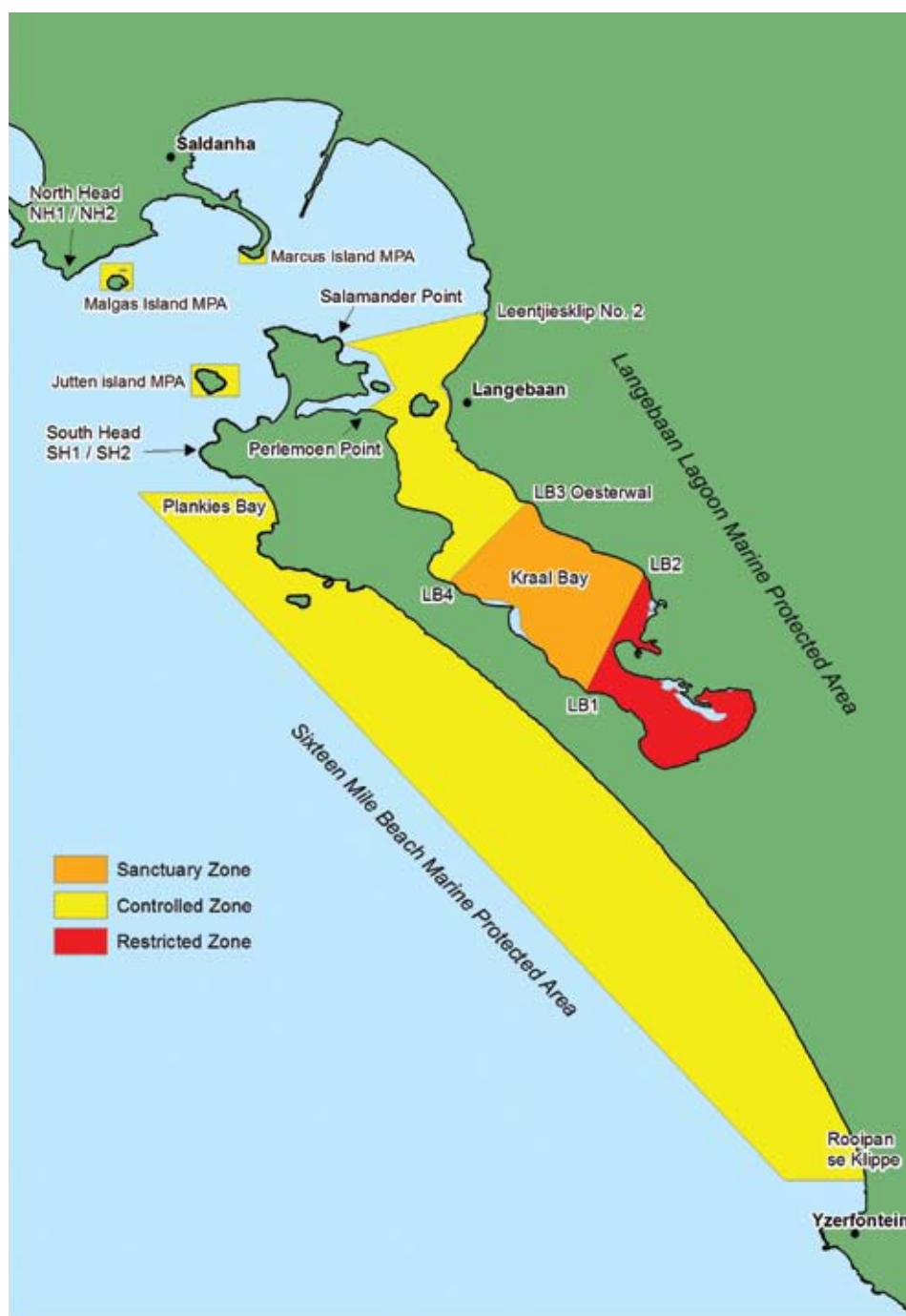
Funds provided to the MPA complex are insufficient for addressing the above two critical staffing related points and it is suggested that a total budget review is needed for the marine component of the WCNP due to the management complexities. Additional funding is required to ensure proper maintenance of island infrastructure points and the costly replacement of capital items. The current engines on the patrol boat are in need of replacing and ideally these should be replaced with four-stroke engines to limit pollution. In the longer term a dedicated MPA base needs to be found, funded and built with a satellite base being needed at Kraalbaai. All signage across the MPA is in need of upgrading and a smaller patrol boat is needed to operate within the lagoon system.

Although there is a high level strategic management plan available for the West Coast National Park, it is felt that a lower level dedicated MPA management plan should be developed and incorporated into the higher level plan. A focus area of this plan would be the identification and implementation of a research and monitoring plan from both a biodiversity and heritage component and which would guide management decision-making and adaptive management. All current research and monitoring undertaken within the MPA must be made available to the management staff and support from SAHRA is needed to better understand and manage the heritage components within the MPA. There is a need for the MPA to identify priority management focused research and this list must then be circulated to research institutions and universities for implementation.

Capacity development of MPA personnel must be ongoing with the recognition that a specialised set of skills is required to manage an MPA. Current effort must be placed on developing the understanding of MPA management including compliance and law enforcement. Hard skills such as skippers training at sea are a high priority need.

Priority actions: West Coast National Park MPAs:

1. Budget review;
2. Boosting staff numbers and capacity;
3. Development of a conservation development framework;
4. Development of a MPA management plan;
5. Development of a research and monitoring plan, and
6. Infrastructure maintenance.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

2.2.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

Langebaan Lagoon and Sixteen Mile Beach are part of the WCNP and are declared under the NEM: PAA. The lagoon, Sixteen Mile Beach and its adjacent offshore area and the marine areas surrounding the three islands were declared as five MPAs under the MLRA in 2000 (GN 21948). The regulations provided a zonation pattern for the lagoon and permitted the catching of linefish from a boat in the Sixteen Mile Beach MPA and the three island MPAs, and the recreational catching of West Coast rock lobster in the Sixteen Mile Beach MPA.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

Although protected area regulations are in place under the legislation of the MLRA and the NEM: PAA, insufficient funding is limiting the current staff component in dealing with all regulatory issues. Large-scale developments are constantly taking place in the neighboring towns of Langebaan and Saldanha and SANParks currently has limited capacity to deal with all of the EIAs emanating from these developments. These developments are negatively impacting on the integrity of the system.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

The boundaries of the Langebaan Lagoon and island complex are generally adhered to by the commercial fishing sector. However, problems exist during peak visitor use periods over the holiday seasons. This places strain on management of resources as intensive effort is required by the SANParks staff to ensure that boundaries are adhered to. The non-consumptive users, such as the paragliding and windsurfing fraternity, are particularly problematic and effort should be placed into finding mechanisms to address non-compliance by these users.

Biodiversity resource inventory (2/3)

The biodiversity of the lagoon and island complex is well studied with regular research being undertaken. The only issue exists in ensuring that all research that is completed is incorporated into management decision-making and adaptive management. In many cases the research and monitoring undertaken by external parties such as universities is not made available to park management.

Heritage resource inventory (0.5/3)

The WCNP complex has a rich and long history and although some information is available on the heritage and cultural values, park management feel that greater effort can be placed in gaining a full understanding of this component. External support would be needed to ensure that a comprehensive inventory is available.

PLANNING

Protected area design (2/3)

The WCNP MPA comprises a lagoon, three islands and a long sandy beach, which creates a complex site for management. There are some areas that are critical for the maintenance of the ecological integrity of the MPA that have not been fully incorporated in the MPA. Opportunities do exist to consolidate the area around the port and islands, especially considering some of the seaward extensions that have been outlined in the West Coast bioregional plan (Sink 2013). Reference has also been made to these suggested consolidations with buffer zones within the current WCNP management plan.

Strategic management plan (1/3)

The WCNP management plan has recently been reviewed and updated through an extensive consultation process. The strategic management plan incorporates the strategic components of the MPA but further focus could be spent on developing a lower level plan that specifically focuses on and discusses in depth the management of the MPA itself.

Conservation development framework (0.5/3)

The lagoon has been divided into three visitor-use zones:

- Zone A: Multi-use zone: This area is managed as a marine controlled zone with enforcement of the MLRA. Fishing and motorised vessels are allowed;
- Zone B: Restricted zone: Fishing and the use of any motorised vessel can only take place on authority of and in accordance with a permit obtained from the management authority. Fishers with net fishing rights are permitted to fish;
- Zone C: Sanctuary zone: no boats or extractive uses are permitted.

Although the lagoon has been zoned, a full conservation development framework for the WCNP complex is not in place and this would be a useful document that would assist in resolving and guiding current development pressures.

Land and water use planning (0/3)

EIA processes are followed but recommendations of the record of decisions (RODs) are not followed or implemented by developers, parastatals, the municipality and the military. The current inter-governmental framework limits the ability to mitigate this lack of adherence to RODs, with the result that ratepayers themselves have to pursue adherence to regulations and legislation. This has a negative impact on SANParks, as there is the perception by the public that they are unwilling to address lack of compliance around land and water use planning.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (1/3)

Extensive research is taking place within the MPA but this is not necessarily focused on management priorities. There is a need for MPA staff to identify priority management focused research and this list must then be circulated to research institutions and universities for implementation.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

The WCNP has undertaken a full manpower needs analysis that includes the staffing of the MPA component. This analysis clearly shows that the MPA is grossly understaffed, especially given the extreme complexity of managing the lagoon and island MPA. The current Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) does assist in boosting capacity, however this is only on a temporary basis and those appointed within the programme cannot assist with legislative issues. Skills need to be improved with a focus on better understanding of MPA management, legislation and compliance requirements and hard skills such as skippers training.

Current budget (1/3)

The current MPA budget for the WCNP is provided by DEA as part of the SANParks Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget allocation. There is a dedicated MPA budget, however funding is insufficient for the appointment of adequate numbers of personnel to properly manage the MPA, particularly over the peak season where high visitor numbers impact on the lagoon and MPA.

Security of current budget (3/3)

Although the budget is secure over a three-year period, the rate of inflation and increase in running costs are considered but may not be sufficient to keep up with current rates of inflation. This in effect means that available budget to achieve management objectives is decreasing year on year.

Income (2.5/3)

Income is generated in the MPA through boat permits, events and fishing permits. Funds received from the fishing permits go back to the MLRF while the funds generated from boat permits and events are channeled back to SANParks' central budget for reallocation. There is a large non-consumptive user market that is currently not paying any fees and yet makes extensive use of the MPA and lagoon. Though this group does not pay any fees, they require constant compliance monitoring and therefore drain MPA resources.

Law enforcement (1.5/3)

Given the constraints of limited personnel, the MPA still has a high efficiency in dealing with marine compliance breeches. This is boosted through strong partnerships with DAFF compliance, the SAPS Water-wing and neighbourhood watch programmes. Improved compliance training would assist in further effectiveness. As explained above, there is a lack of capacity to deal with EIAs and lack of adherence to RODs.

PROCESS**Annual plan of operation (1.5/3)**

APOs have been developed for each section and these are linked to the strategic management plan and staff key performance areas (KPA's).

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

Biodiversity management is being undertaken within the constraints of funding and staff numbers. Good management is being undertaken on the islands and compliance patrols are effective throughout the year with priority being given over peak seasons. The EPWP is also assisting in the control of alien invasive species and where possible is supporting coastal monitoring.

Heritage resource management (0.5/3)

Where the heritage sites are known, these are recorded within the management plan, though no interventions are taking place. Further assessment of the entire area is needed and support is needed from SAHRA.

Human resources management (2/3)

Lack of suitable training is demoralising personnel and it is felt that there is a lack of understanding of the capacity development needs of MPA personnel. Personnel feel that there needs to be better and more regular communication between MPA personnel and senior managers so that there can be greater appreciation and recognition of the roles that MPA staff play.

Administrative systems (1.5/3)

The procurement process is tedious but it is recognised that this is a requirement of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). The tedious administrative systems negatively impact on staff effectiveness on the ground. This means that extra time is spent on administrative systems as opposed to operational issues. The checking of boat permits is extremely tedious and time consuming and more efficient mechanisms need to be sought and implemented.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

Island infrastructure is in need of upgrading and is costly to maintain. In the longer term a dedicated MPA base needs to be found with a satellite base being needed at Kraalbaai. All signage across the MPA is in need of upgrading and a smaller patrol boat is needed to operate within the lagoon system.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

The cost of replacement of capital equipment is part of the capital expenditure allocation for the broader park. The current engines on the patrol boat are in need of replacing. Ideally these should be replaced with four-stroke engines to limit pollution. As mentioned above, all signage needs replacement and island infrastructure is in need of upgrading.

Education and awareness programme (3/3)

The People and Conservation Programme has a co-ordinated environmental awareness programme in place that integrates the marine environment. There is a current focus on school groups, but this should be expanded to include adults from target sectors such as the small-scale net fishers.

Neighbours (2.5/3)

The park forum is functioning well and meets on a regular basis and includes MPA components. Co-operation varies with certain sectors having set agendas that only focus on addressing their specific needs.

Advisory committee (2.5/3)

See above. Contribution and attendance is good, though co-operation is sometimes problematic.

Community partners (3/3)

See above two points. Through the development of the strategic management plan, there was extensive consultation with stakeholders allowing input into the contents of the management plan itself.

Commercial tourism (2.5/3)

Formal meetings are taking place with commercial tourism. Non-consumptive tour operations are problematic and there is a need to address the legal and liability issues in regards to use of the MPA.

Performance evaluation system (1.5/3)

Environmental assessments are currently completed on an ad hoc basis with results not being provided to the MPA. KPAs are in place for managers. An MPA METT assessment is completed through WWF and DEA on approximately a four to five year interval.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (1/3)**

Current visitor facilities provided by the MPA and park complex are not adequate during the high peak influx of visitors over holiday seasons. Ablutions are inadequate in dealing with the high numbers and slipways become overcrowded. However during the rest of the year, facilities that are provided are adequate.

Ecological condition assessment (1.5/3)

Annual state of bay reports for Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon, which report on activities in the area and monitoring results for sediment and water quality, benthic macro fauna, rocky intertidal communities, surf zone fish, birds and alien species, are commissioned by the Saldanha Bay Water Quality Forum Trust and prepared and presented by Anchor Environmental Consultants. These reports are made available to management authorities through the forum. The overall ecological footprint and integrity of the WCNP is threatened by the developmental impacts from multiple sectors. It is strongly recommended that a conservation development framework be developed for this park that clearly delineates areas where development is allowed and how such developments will be managed in relation to ecological processes. Full inter-governmental support will be needed for this framework.

Heritage condition assessment (1/3)

Limited information is currently available on the condition of heritage assets and values and a full study is needed to understand the implication of such assets towards management. There is also a need to determine the responsibility for the management of these heritage assets.

Protection systems (2/3)

The open access via the towns of Langebaan make management of the MPA difficult though in other areas access is well managed and controlled.

Economic and social benefit assessment (3/3)

The WCNP through the lagoon and MPA is a national asset that generates large amounts of revenue through direct and indirect tourism. The protection of fisheries nursery grounds within the lagoon and surrounding areas provides benefits to recreational, small-scale and commercial fisheries.

2.3 Table Mountain National Park MPA

2.3.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) MPA was proclaimed in 2004 under the MLRA. The MPA is located in a transition zone between the southwestern Cape bioregion and the Agulhas bioregion and it supports a rich diversity of marine species. It is a culturally significant area as it contains fish traps, numerous wrecks and traditional fishing communities. The MPA is important for commercial fisheries, such as the West Coast rock lobster industry, components of which are based in the MPA and for recreational fishers and subsistence fishers.

Due to its proximity to Cape Town there are high levels of tourism, recreational activities as well as research and education in the MPA. Internationally renowned tourist attractions within the MPA include Cape Point and the Boulders African penguin colony. Threatened and protected species supported within the MPA include white sharks, abalone, African penguins and several over-exploited linefish species such as poenskop and red steenbras.

Objectives:

- To protect and conserve marine ecosystems and populations of marine species;
- To protect the reproductive capacity of commercially important species of fish, including abalone, rock lobster and traditional line fish and to allow their populations to recover, and
- To promote ecotourism within the MPA.

Risks:

- The over-exploitation of marine fish and invertebrates;
- Pollution from the harbors and from land-based sources;
- Abalone and rock lobster poaching are the main enforcement challenges for MPA management;
- Increased exposure to poaching and unregulated fishing from commercial rights holders and interim relief permit holders;
- Changes in legislation such as the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Policy that may expose all MPAs to further exploitation;
- Shrinking of budgets that mean that vacant staff positions are not filled and are ultimately lost and are never budgeted for again resulting in a slow form of attrition;
- High value species present within the MPA have attracted poachers from outlying areas where the stocks have been depleted. Compliance staff at greater risk in dealing with this threat as they are not armed. At present only terrestrial staff may be armed, and
- Food security as more people are turning to alternative food sources such as shellfish from the sea.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- A comprehensive plan needs to be formulated with active involvement of the management team and stakeholders.
- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme needs to be designed and implemented.
- Education programmes and workshops need to target the affected communities and resource users.
- There needs to be meaningful engagement with local stakeholders using varied methods according to the community characteristics.
- Co-management with affected communities dependent on the resources should be considered.
- Revised and updated training is required by MPA staff.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

The TMNP MPA is currently understaffed to deal with the complexities of managing an MPA that borders on a large metropole and where organised crime and marine poaching is taking place. There is a critical need to bring the MPA team back to the original number of 20 persons. In addition, staff members need to be suitably qualified to undertake the required tasks. The filling of all vacancies is a priority and adequate funding should be provided for this.

In order to ensure sufficient funding is provided to the Table Mountain MPA it is suggested that a full budget review is undertaken that addresses the actual management and staffing needs of the MPA. Current budgets, although adequate for operational management. All signage depicting MPA boundaries is in need of replacement.

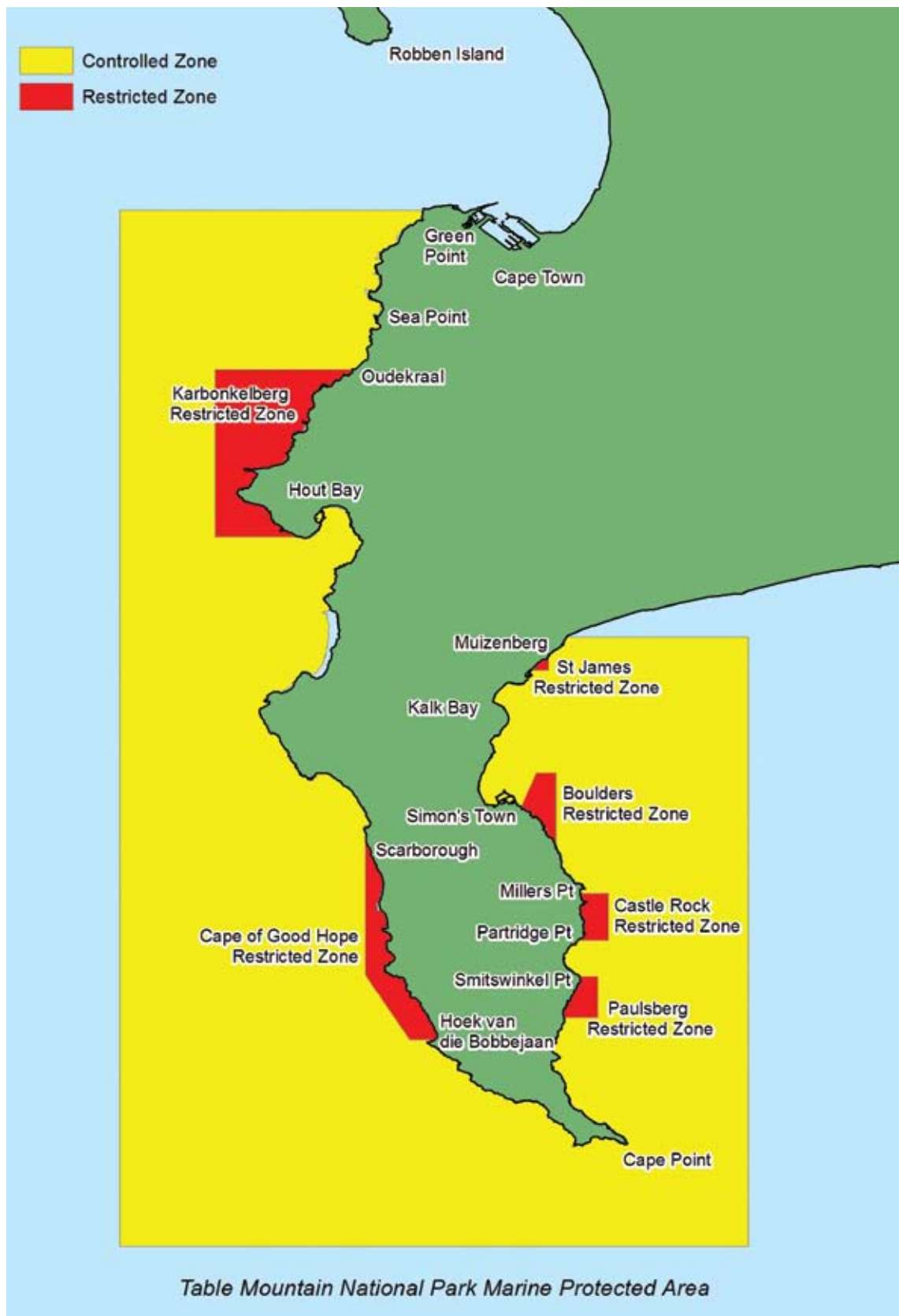
Another priority action is the development and implementation of a dedicated MPA management plan and an annual plan of operation. Currently it appears that most management is reactive as opposed to being proactive, this would be addressed through the management plan. The management plan will also need to identify and implement a management-based research and monitoring programme as well as prioritising a zonation plan for the MPA that indicates how conflict should be resolved between user groups (e.g. scuba divers and fishers using the same areas). A full conservation development framework should be developed at the same time as the management plan. The development of the management plan should also consider the proclamation of the MPA under the NEM: PAA in order to aid operational management while also considering the process of including an area around Seal Island within False Bay into the MPA's boundary. Seal Island and its surrounding waters have been identified as a global biodiversity hotspot requiring improved protection.

Consideration should be given to re-establishing the MPA advisory committee. This must be established with full support and involvement from DEA and DAFF and in a manner that it will assist in finding long-term solutions for the ongoing conflict around Hangberg and Ocean View. SANParks are in a difficult position in dealing with these communities as they cannot negotiate long-term solutions to the grievances of these two communities. DAFF and DEA need to engage with the communities in finding solutions through effective co-management structures.

Increased support and involvement is needed from SAHRA to identify and properly manage all heritage assets within the MPA.

Priority actions: TMNP MPA

1. Resolving and filling staff vacancies and ensuring staff capacity development and support;
2. Undertaking a full budget review;
3. Development and implementation of a MPA management plan and operational plan;
4. Development and implementation of a conservation development framework;
5. Development of a research and monitoring programme;
6. Development and submission of a motivation for the inclusion of Seal Island and surrounding waters within False Bay into the MPA's boundaries;
7. Re-establishment of MPA advisory committee and the development of a local MPA Forum for the MPA would greatly help to improve engagement with local stakeholders; and
8. Replacing all degraded signage.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

2.3.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The MPA was declared under the MLRA in 2004 (GN 26431). Much of the adjacent land was declared as a national park under NEM: PAA, but the MPA does not have a dual designation.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

MLRA regulations are being implemented but this is still not giving full protection. The NEM: PAA is far better at controlling human activities and will aid effective management in an MPA with such high human impact.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

The proclamation notice does give the co-ordinates of the MPA boundaries and these are also shown on terrestrial placed signage, but these signs are generally in poor condition and in need of replacement.

Biodiversity resource inventory (2/3)

A large amount of research has been undertaken within the MPA and continued support is being provided through the University of Cape Town. The EPWP is undertaking coastal monitoring. SANParks needs to ensure up to date capture and analyses of all data collected and ensure regular feedback to park management so that findings can be included in management decision-making.

Heritage resource inventory (1/3)

Although all known sites are recorded, it is felt that more work is needed to ensure a comprehensive heritage resource inventory. SAHRA needs to become more involved in supporting this work and this must be clearly articulated in a management plan.

PLANNING

Protected area design (2/3)

TMNP MPA covers an area of 956km² and contains six restricted areas that collectively make up 5.9% of the total area of the MPA. The size and shape of the MPA was viewed as suitable however it was suggested that the restricted areas be expanded. The MPA has a number of no-take zones, activities within the MPA are also controlled through managing adjacent land uses and access points. The Table Bay West Coast rock lobster sanctuary is the cause of much conflict between MPA management and neighbouring communities and this needs high-level DEA and DAFF support to find a long-lasting solution. Seal Island within False Bay should be considered to be included within a MPA.

Strategic management plan (0/3)

No strategic management plan exists for the MPA and this is a limiting factor to effective management of the MPA. This is considered a high priority and needs to be addressed.

Conservation development framework (0/3)

A broad zonation plan exists for the MPA but this does not drill down to the level of zoning human activities within the MPA and does not address how conflict should be dealt with between user groups (e.g. scuba divers and fishers using the same areas). A full conservation development framework should be developed at the same time as the management plan and this requires direct stakeholder involvement.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

Land-based development and pollution issues generally do not take cognisance of the MPA. This component can be addressed through clear articulation of needs, requirements and restrictions within the management plan.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (2/3)

MPA management has pushed for research undertaken within the MPA to be management-based and this has resulted in an increased amount of monitoring and research that can benefit decision-making. However, clear research and monitoring needs must be identified and articulated within the management plan. How this research and monitoring can be used in adaptive management must also be articulated.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

The MPA is currently understaffed to fulfill its required mandates. There is a critical need to bring the MPA team back to the original number of 20 persons. In addition staff needs to be suitably qualified to undertake the required tasks. The filling of all vacancies is a priority but this is difficult where budget is centrally managed and filling the vacancies is not seen as a priority. The current allocation of DEA funding to SANParks needs to be reviewed so as to ensure adequate funds are apportioned to MPAs.

Current budget (2/3)

The current MPA budget for the park is provided by DEA as part of the SANParks MTEF budget allocation. There is a dedicated MPA budget, however funding is insufficient for the appointment of adequate numbers of personnel to properly manage the MPA.

Security of current budget (3/3)

The budget is provided through a budget allocation for a MTEF period.

Income (2/3)

None of the income generated by this MPA is directly used for MPA management. All funding from fishing permits goes directly back to DAFF. The African penguin colony at Boulders Beach does generate funds for SANParks with all funds being reallocated within SANParks.

Law enforcement (1/3)

Given the highly complex nature of the MPA lying adjacent to the City of Cape Town and the lack of sufficient staff, it is extremely difficult for staff to effectively manage MPA compliance. MPA staff members are however working closely with other enforcement agencies within the area (SAPS Water-wing, City of Cape Town Marine Unit, DAFF and DEA compliance etc.) and joint operations are being undertaken. This integrated approach to compliance, although only a recent advent, is starting to pay dividends.

PROCESS

Annual plan of operation (0/3)

No approved APO exists and this is as a result of a lack of a management plan for the MPA. Section rangers within the MPA do have KPAs in place. This lack of management plan and APO results in reactive as opposed to proactive management.

Biodiversity resource management (1/3)

Management interventions are carried out to the best of the management team's ability using available resources. However, this is largely restricted due to insufficient personnel. Rampant abalone and West Coast rock lobster poaching is having a negative impact on biodiversity resource management.

Heritage resource management (1/3)

SANParks is not undertaking any heritage resource management. SAHRA is responsible for this and needs to take a more active role in this.

Human resources management (2.5/3)

The morale of the current staff component is high but this will be limited in the future due to the insufficient number of staff available to fulfill the required duties. Personnel feel that their concerns of sufficient numbers are not being addressed.

Administrative systems (2/3)

Procurement processes are tedious and lead to increased time having to be spent on administrative issues as opposed to addressing in-field operational issues. Greater attention to detail is required in the filling in of patrol reports and these need to be delivered on time and as required.

Operational equipment & infrastructure (2/3)

The MPA is generally well equipped, though the siting of the office complex is problematic given its distance from priority problem areas. It would be ideal to have office space at the various slipways under SANParks' jurisdiction.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

All signage is in need of upgrading and replacement. Sufficient staffing is needed to ensure proper maintenance of the equipment. With the recent secondment of a dedicated resource to the City of Cape Town Marine Unit, maintenance of the boat and equipment has greatly improved.

Education and awareness programme (2/3)

A dedicated marine and education staff member is employed and has a focused programme of work. The "Kids in parks" programme has unfortunately been placed on hold due to the provincial education restrictions that limit field outings for scholars.

Neighbours (2/3)

Given the unique positioning of TMP MPA, there are various levels of co-operation ranging from poor to excellent. Priority areas for improved co-operation are with the Hangberg and Ocean View communities. SANParks are in a difficult position in dealing with these communities, as they cannot negotiate long-term solutions to the grievances of these two communities. DAFF and DEA need to engage more actively in finding solutions and providing decisions around some of these challenges.

Advisory committee (0/3)

No local MPA forum or advisory committee exists, though issues are dealt with on an ad hoc basis and as they arise. The development of an advisory committee could assist in moving from reactive management towards proactive MPA management.

Community partners (2/3)

See above.

Commercial tourism (2/3)

TMP MPA is not dealing with commercial tourism as many of the tourism activities taking place within the MPA are managed and permitted by DEA and DAFF.

Performance evaluation system (1/3)

Staff performance evaluations take place but since there is no management plan or APO in place, performance is not directly linked to specific management plan objectives of the MPA.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (0/3)**

The MPA has no visitor facilities as these are provided for through the close proximity of the City of Cape Town and availability of municipal facilities.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

With the limited staff component, rampant abalone and West Coast rock lobster poaching is rife within MPA boundaries and this is threatening the ecological integrity of the MPA on a larger level. The combined enforcement operations mentioned above are having a positive impact in trying to address this poaching, however until staff levels are increased, these illegal activities will continue.

Heritage condition assessment (0/3)

SAHRA manages heritage values and assets within the MPA, though it is felt that greater effort can be made by SAHRA to protect these assets.

Protection systems (2/3)

MPA management feels that there are improving levels of compliance by general users and that this is as a result of concerted efforts by available personnel. Fishers are more aware that they will be checked and slipway management has also been improved. However, as stated above, there has been an increase in organised poaching taking place for abalone and West Coast rock lobster with links to organised crime. An integrated compliance strategy across enforcement agencies will need to be developed to address this poaching.

Economic and social benefit assessment (2/3)

The value of the MPA is extremely variable as a result of such a wide user range and the size of the neighbouring communities. The marine environment as a whole is critical to the economy of the Western Cape with False Bay being a prime tourism and biodiversity-filming destination.

2.4 Tsitsikamma MPA

2.4.1. Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

Tsitsikamma MPA was proclaimed in 1964 and is the oldest MPA in Africa. This MPA forms part of the Garden Route National Park. The MPA section of the park is one of the larger MPAs in South Africa, extending 80km along the coast and three nautical miles offshore, and is entirely a no-take zone. The coastline of the MPA is predominantly rugged with high rocky ridges and boulder bays, while the offshore environment consists of submerged rocky reefs and sandy benthos.

The MPA is significant for fish conservation in South Africa as it provides an important refuge for many reef fish species; it is central in the distribution range of several endemic species; it protects large populations of commercially exploited species; and it supports a rich diversity of fish (202 species from 84 families), some of which are IUCN Red Data List of species. Furthermore, there is evidence that several species have a high degree of residency, which combined with slow growth rates, makes them vulnerable to over-exploitation. In addition this MPA protects approximately 11% of the warm-temperate South Coast rocky shoreline. The offshore marine living resources within the MPA are in near pristine condition while the inshore resources are exposed to some illegal extraction.

The MPA is an important ecotourism attraction drawing approximately 170 000 local and international visitors annually. Recreational activities in the MPA include boat rides, snorkeling and diving, and the renowned Otter Trail and Dolphin Trail run adjacent to the MPA. Cultural and heritage resources in and related to the MPA include a wreck, an old harbour and strandloper shell middens in caves along the shore. Furthermore there has been a significant amount of research and several educational programmes in the MPA.

There is a long history of resource use in the area. In 2001 the whole MPA was declared a no-take area under the MLRA. A number of communities that claim to be dependent on access to marine living resources for their livelihoods have actively campaigned to obtain access to the area in the past. This issue remains a major source of conflict and tension in the area and has resulted in some locals resorting to illegal fishing in the MPA.

Objectives:

- SANParks' strategy is to effectively manage coastal and marine areas under their designation, through corporate governance with national, provincial and local governmental departments and organisations;
- To provide feeding grounds or nursing areas for marine species including linefish and seabirds;
- To promote and undertake research and monitoring of key patterns and to a lesser extent processes in marine and coastal areas of the park, and
- Monitoring of marine biota, including resource stocks, harvesting and alien invasions.

Assets:

- Over 60km of coastline comprised of rocky shores that makes up 4% of Agulhas biogeographical region and 5km of sandy beaches;
- Substratum comprised of 79% soft bottom sediments and 21% of dispersed gravel platforms and rocky reefs;
- Studies show that most visitors to the park do so for the natural beauty of the area;
- Almost all of the staff employed within the park are from surrounding communities and local towns;
- Studies conducted during 2005-6 have shown that between the three MPAs along Garden

Route R10.65 million was generated through tourism revenue with off-site revenue reaching R24.5 million (Turpie *et al.* 2006), and

- Tsitsikamma MPA alone showed visitor figures of 204 000 during the same year of study.

Risks:

- Poaching;
- Unsustainable resource use on MPA borders;
- Climate change;
- Open access to coastline;
- Poor siting of income generating infrastructure;
- Uncertainty of political support for conservation;
- Invasive alien species in the MPA;
- Poverty and lack of education amongst neighbours to the park, and
- Loophole in MLRA legislation not preventing scuba diving that at present can only be addressed through the NEM: PAA.

Protected species:

- A number of linefish species considered depleted and in need of protection can be found in the MPA.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- Education programmes and workshops need to target the affected communities and resource user.
- Improved boundary markers and signs need to be erected.
- A planning process that involves adequate engagement with communities needs to be initiated.
- There needs to be meaningful engagement with local stakeholders using varied methods according to the community characteristics.
- A socio-economic assessment of the adjacent communities should be conducted and be made available to management.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

It is clear that this MPA has benefited from the focused activities and planning that has taken place in respect to the proclamation of the Garden Route National Park. Management plans and research and monitoring are well catered for within the MPA, though it is suggested that a focused MPA management plan is developed for inclusion into the larger strategic management plan for the Garden Route National Park. The development and implementation of an APO is seen as a priority.

Although the size and shape of the MPA is adequate to achieve conservation objectives, its design could be improved by extending the MPA boundary to three nautical miles off the De Vasselot marine section (current boundary is only 0.5 km off this section of the park south of the Bloukrans River) and to create a 0.5 nautical mile buffer zone around the MPA. A rationale for this expansion should be submitted to DEA: O&C, using the work developed by K. Smith and A. Riley.

There is a need for MPA capacity development with a focus on MPA management training and hard skills such as skippers and marine law enforcement and compliance training.

Despite requests to have the MPA opened to fishing having been rejected at ministerial level, there is still a small sector of the neighboring community that is pushing to gain access to shore fishing in the MPA. This aspect needs to be closely monitored particularly where politicians may see this as a manner to win them votes. Considerable research is available that highlights the

negative implications of re-opening the MPA to such fishing and the continuation of the inshore linefish monitoring and baited remote underwater video monitoring is critical to be able to justify this continued closure. Employment and tourism opportunities are providing sustainable economic opportunities and these must be highlighted should further requests be made to open the MPA to fishing again.

The current budget available to the MPA is considered adequate, though it will need to take into consideration the purchasing of a smaller patrol boat and engines for the western section of the MPA. Ideally four-stroke engines must be purchased for this patrol boat to limit pollution.

Priority action: Tsitsikamma MPA

1. Development and implementation of an MPA management plan and APO;
2. Continuation of the inshore linefish and underwater monitoring projects;
3. Develop and submit to DEA a proposal outlining the re-alignment of the western section of the MPA boundaries;
4. Focused MPA capacity development;
5. Monitoring of the situation regarding the request to re-open the MPA to fishing and addressing this through appropriate mechanisms, and
6. Purchase of a small patrol boat and four-stroke engines for the western section of the MPA.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

2.4.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

Tsitsikamma was originally proclaimed under the National Parks Act of 1976. In 2000 the marine section east of the Groot River (west) to Groot River (east) was proclaimed as the Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area under the MLRA.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

Abalone poaching does occur within the MPA and the implementation of a diving ban in particular areas, as is found within other MPAs managed by SANParks, could assist with enforcement. Controlled scuba diving (e.g. within the Storms River area) should be allowed to continue as it provides an important tourism opportunity and source of income. Tighter control is needed over activities within the controlled zone of the MPA.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

There is no demarcation of the physical MPA boundary but generally commercial vessels are aware of the boundaries due to the MPA having identifiable natural boundaries.

Biodiversity resource inventory (2/3)

The marine biodiversity within the MPA is relatively well researched. The South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) is currently assisting with an extensive offshore monitoring programme and in the past an onshore linefish-monitoring programme was implemented by the South African Institute for Aquatic Biology (SAIAB) and Rhodes University. The continuation of this inshore linefish monitoring programme is critical, especially in light of the repeated requests to re-open the MPA to shore based angling. SANParks implements an adaptive management approach that considers scientific input into management decision-making.

Heritage resource inventory (2.5/3)

All heritage sites are well known and are regularly patrolled but no further research is being undertaken. There is a need for SAHRA to support further research within MPA boundaries.

PLANNING

Protected area design (2/3)

The Tsitsikamma MPA stretches 80km along the shore between Groot River in the east and Die Punt near Natures Valley in the west. The section between Groot River (east) to Bloukrans River of the MPA extends to 3.0 nautical miles offshore, for the remainder of the area the MPA extends 0.5 nautical miles offshore. The entire MPA is a restricted (no-take) zone. The size and shape of the MPA is adequate to achieve conservation objectives, however the design could be improved by extending the MPA boundary to three nautical miles offshore for the De Vasselot marine section and to create a 0.5 nautical mile buffer zone around the MPA. A rationale for this expansion should be submitted to DEA, using the work undertaken by Kyle Smith and Andre Riley.

Strategic management plan (3/3)

The MPA falls within the boundaries of the Garden Route National Park for which there exists a strategic management plan. The high level strategic components of the MPA are included in the larger plan; however a dedicated lower level plan should be developed.

Conservation development framework (3/3)

The conservation development framework for the MPA is considered within the larger plan that has been drawn up for the Garden Route National Park.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

Pollution and sewage runoff together with impacts from neighbouring golf courses and dairy farms are being addressed through meetings with the local municipality.

INPUTS**Research and monitoring programme (2/3)**

Management-based research is being undertaken by the SANParks Scientific Services and major support is being provided through external researchers. Rob Milne is currently writing up nine years of law enforcement monitoring as part of a Masters dissertation. Some gaps do exist and these are highlighted within the Garden Route National Park management plan.

Human resource capacity (2/3)

The current MPA staff component is adequate for operational requirements. However there is a need for MPA focused capacity development with a focus on hard skills such as skippers and law enforcement and compliance training.

Current budget (2/3)

The current MPA budget is provided by DEA as part of the SANParks MTEF budget allocation. There is a dedicated MPA budget for the area.

Security of current budget (3/3)

The budget is provided through a budget allocation for a MTEF period.

Income (1/3)

All income generated by the Storms River section of the Garden Route National Park reverts to the central SANParks budget.

Law enforcement (3/3)

Compliance and law enforcement within the park is highly effective with there being a dedicated team available to address law enforcement issues. Coastal monitor teams from the EPWP assist in providing information but are themselves not involved in law enforcement activities.

PROCESS**Annual plan of operation (0/3)**

No APO exists for the MPA, though work plans are linked to the budget proposals developed and submitted at the start of each new financial year. Staff KPAs do exist. The development and implementation of an APO is seen as a priority.

Biodiversity resource management (3/3)

Through the effective compliance programme taking place on the MPA, biodiversity resources are being protected and maintained. Regular monitoring and research is being undertaken and the results of which are being incorporated into management decision making. Recently the inshore linefish monitoring project being conducted by Rhodes University ceased in February 2013 due to lack of funding, this project should be re-initiated as soon as possible to ensure the quality of this long-term data set.

Heritage resource management (3/3)

Known heritage assets are regularly patrolled to prevent illegal activities taking place, though no active management of the asset is being undertaken.

Human resources management (2/3)

Staff morale is high, though there is a need for greater support for MPA related capacity development. There is a need for focused interventions that specifically raise the competencies around MPA management. Currently, there is only a focus on terrestrial based protected area management.

Administrative systems (3/3)

MPA personnel feel that the Garden Route National Park has excellent and supportive administrative systems though procurement can be tedious as a result of PFMA requirements.

Operational equipment & infrastructure (3/3)

Tsitsikamma MPA is well equipped and has good infrastructure that meets operational requirements. Consideration must be given to the replacement of capital items and budgets must be allocated for these items. The purchase of a small patrol boat and four-stroke engines for the western section of the MPA would improve patrols in this area.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2.5/3)

Given procurement processes and policies, maintenance of equipment is often time consuming and tedious. This is a specific problem given the isolated situation of Tsitsikamma MPA where service providers are often lacking or where they do exist they have not registered on the SANParks procurement system.

Education and awareness programme (2/3)

There is a dedicated People and Conservation Programme that deals specifically with education and awareness within the Garden Route National Park and that incorporates the marine environment into their programme of work.

Neighbours (2/3)

There is good communication with and co-operation from neighbouring farmers. A minority of the neighbouring community members are still pursuing the issue of trying to re-open the MPA to fishing, despite this having been rejected at ministerial level. This is an issue that will require close monitoring, particularly where politicians may see this as a manner to win votes. Considerable research is available that highlights the negative implications of re-opening the MPA to such fishing.

Advisory committee (2/3)

There is a park forum in existence and this meets on a regular basis. However, MPAs are low on the agenda of this forum. A dedicated MPA forum for the Tsitsikamma MPA could help to bring together key stakeholders on management issues.

Community partners (2/3)

As is mentioned in the above two points, good communication and co-operation largely exists between neighbouring communities and Tsitsikamma MPA and input is considered during the management planning process.

Commercial tourism (2/3)

A number of commercial tourism activities take place within the MPA boundaries and regular interaction takes place between MPA staff and the tourism operators. Scuba diving within the MPA is problematic as there is no control as to where and when the commercial operators take their clients to dive within the MPA. This situation therefore needs to be resolved with some urgency.

Performance evaluation system (3/3)

Good performance evaluation systems exist for the MPA and are completed by SANParks personnel on a regular basis. There is a concern that the results from these assessments are not always fed back to MPA personnel. The state of MPA assessment is undertaken on a regular basis by WWF and DEA.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (3/3)**

All visitor facilities adjacent to the MPA are extremely well managed and adequate.

Ecological condition assessment (3/3)

Through the availability of a dedicated enforcement team, ecological values of the MPA are being well protected, though occasional abalone poaching does take place and some illegal coastal fishing occurs in the remote areas of the MPA.

Heritage condition assessment (3/3)

Regular patrolling by the dedicated law enforcement team is ensuring the protection of all known heritage assets within the MPA.

Protection systems (2/3)

Only the area around the rest camp is well manned. The Tsitsikamma MPA has 60kms of coastline and is unfenced but much of this is relatively difficult to access. Law enforcement of the coastline is considered to be 80% effective.

Economic and social benefit assessment (2/3)

A number of studies have indicated that the MPA delivers considerable and quantifiable long-term community benefits to local communities and to the larger economy. Employment and tourism opportunities are providing sustainable economic opportunities and these must be strongly considered should further requests be made to open the MPA to fishing again.

2.5 Bird Island MPA - Algoa Bay

2.5.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Bird Island Group MPA was declared under the MLRA in 2004. The MPA surrounds the Bird Island group (Bird Island, Stag Island, Seal Island and Black Rocks), which is situated in Algoa Bay close to the Woody Cape Section of Addo Elephant National Park. The Bird Island Group and St Croix Island were declared as a part of the Addo Elephant National Park in 2005.

The islands are important areas for seabird conservation as they support keystone species such as the Cape gannet (largest gannet colony in the world), African penguin, Roseate tern, Antarctic tern and kelp gull. In addition, Bird Island is important for threatened abalone stocks and the Black Rocks support a Cape fur seal breeding colony, which in turn is important as a food source for great white sharks. The subtidal reefs around the islands support many endemic species of fish, invertebrates and seaweeds.

Objectives:

- To conserve the existing abalone population;
- To stop the illegal harvesting of abalone;
- To conserve several species of threatened linefish populations, and
- To protect breeding and feeding habitat for endangered and threatened seabirds (African penguins and Cape gannets).

Assets:

- Large viable abalone population with potential for re-seeding;
- Largely undisturbed habitat for several linefish species;
- Terrestrial, coastal and marine interlink;
- Large distance from launch sites thereby affording some protection, and
- Potentially a high-quality tourism product for top-end users.

Risks:

- Illegal harvesting of abalone and fish;
- Large distance from launch-sites complicating management;
- Pollution threats such as oiling;
- No clearly marked boundaries;
- Climate change with severe weather events (heat waves and cold wet winters), and
- Expensive infrastructure to maintain.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- Signs containing a map, GPS co-ordinates and regulations need to be displayed at all slipways that are used to access the MPA.
- Brochures for the MPA should be distributed at information centers, diving businesses and tackle shops.
- The management plan is not adequate and is in need of revision.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

Similar to the other SANParks MPAs, the compliance and enforcement team of the Bird Island MPA are highly efficient and effective and need to be commended for the number of high profile and precedent setting cases that they have successfully completed against transgressors. However current budget availability means that funds to pay overtime and standby allowance

are not always available and this in turn means that enforcement teams are not always available to control illegal activities.

Boundary demarcation around the island is impractical and mechanisms need to be found to ensure that all GPS makes and models used by fishers, divers and boats record MPA boundaries within their software packages. Signage depicting MPA co-ordinates must be erected at each slipway in the area.

Although a strategic management plan exists for the Addo Elephant National Park complex, it is suggested that a dedicated and focused lower level management plan is drawn up specifically for the MPA. Given that the current plans for MPA expansion are at an advanced level, it might be prudent to draw this plan up as soon as the new expanded MPA is proclaimed. In addition to the management plan, an annual plan of operations is required that will direct proactive MPA management.

Although monitoring and research projects have been identified for the MPA the implementation of this programme is needed and support from external organizations such as SAEON should be approached to support this.

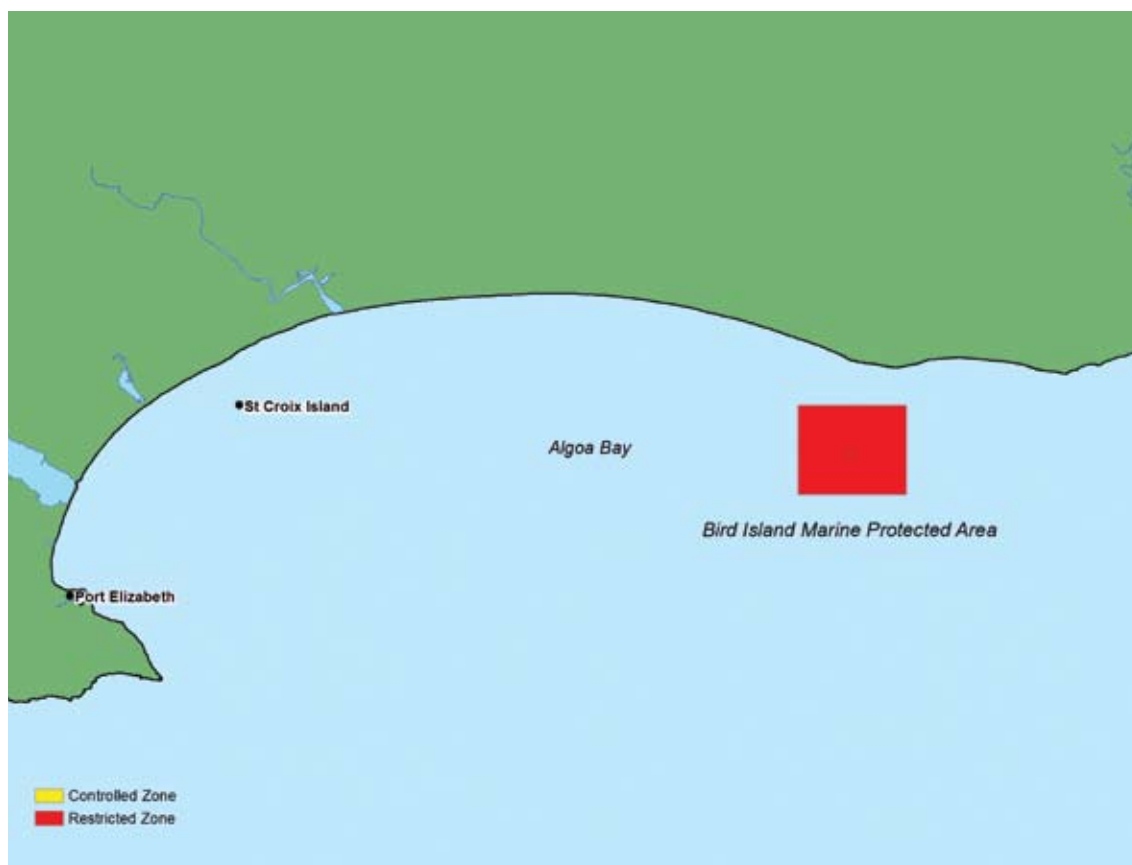
The current staff component for the MPA is sufficient, but this will need reviewing once the expanded MPA is proclaimed. Capacity development is a priority with a focus on understanding MPA management, law enforcement and in operating at sea under arduous and dangerous conditions. Skilled skippers are needed who can operate in all sea conditions during day and night.

The MPA is well equipped though there is a need for regular replacement and maintenance of capital equipment such as boat engines due to the harsh operating conditions for this equipment. Budget is often unavailable for this maintenance or replacement.

It is suggested that a dedicated MPA advisory forum is initiated to cover MPA related issues and that such a forum is particularly relevant given the current expansion plans for the MPA.

Priority actions: Bird Island MPA – Algoa Bay

1. Review MPA related budgets to ensure staff standby and overtime allowances, and the replacement and maintenance of capital equipment;
2. Development of a lower level MPA management plan and annual plan of operations;
3. Capacity development programme initiated;
4. Implementation of a monitoring and research programme for the MPA;
5. Signage to be placed at all key launch sites within the area, and
6. Development and initiation of a MPA advisory forum.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

2.5.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The MPA includes the “water, seabed and airspace to 1 000 meters above sea level” but not the islands. The Bird Island Group was proclaimed as a MPA under the MLRA in 2004. As part of the Greater Addo Elephant Park expansion plans, there are currently processes underway to bring a much larger area (120 000ha) under the MPA. These plans include a re-zonation of the broader Algoa Bay area to include St Croix and Brenton Island into a series of no-take and managed fishing zones.

Protected area regulations (3/3)

Current regulations include a dive ban due to abalone poaching around the islands. No anchoring within the MPA is permitted and precedents of high-profile cases against illegal activities have set a high benchmark for enforcement and act as a suitable deterrent. It is suggested that the MPA also be declared under the NEM: PAA. This will provide a wider range of tools for resource protection that focuses on the utilisation of the system as a whole and is not dictated by marine living resources alone.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

Boundary demarcation around the island is impractical and mechanisms need to be found to ensure that all GPS makes and models record MPA boundaries within their software packages. Signage is currently in the process of being erected at each slipway in the area.

Biodiversity resource inventory (3/3)

Good baseline research has been undertaken to better understand the biodiversity resources, though there is a need for some long-term monitoring projects to be identified and implemented. An excellent partnership is in place with SAEON and Algoa Bay is considered one of their long-term monitoring and research nodes. This will greatly assist the MPA in understanding and managing its biodiversity resources.

Heritage resource inventory (3/3)

Sufficient information is currently available in terms of the heritage resources within the current MPA boundary.

PLANNING**Protected area design (2/3)**

A plan for expansion of the current MPA has been identified and is in an advanced stage of implementation. This expansion has been listed as a priority within the NPAES and within the KPAs of DEA: O&C. Stakeholder engagement processes are underway so as to enable proclamation of the expanded Addo MPA. As soon as this expanded MPA is proclaimed further work will be required to ensure that the legal status, protected area regulations and demarcation are adequately addressed.

Strategic management plan (0/3)

The Bird Island MPA complex that lies within Algoa Bay is covered within the broader strategic management plan for the Addo Elephant National Park. However, it is suggested that a more detailed lower level plan is drawn up for the MPA. It may be prudent to draw up this plan as soon as the expanded MPA is proclaimed.

Conservation development framework (3/3)

A detailed conservation development framework is in place for the islands themselves and a zonation plan has been developed for the current MPA.

Land and water use planning (3/3)

Not applicable given the island nature of the MPA.

INPUTS**Research and monitoring programme (2.5/3)**

Detailed research has been undertaken to support the expansion of the MPA. In this process, planning and monitoring programmes were identified but implementation of these projects is now lacking. Detailed seabird research and monitoring is currently underway.

Human resource capacity (2/3)

Human resource capacity is sufficient for the current MPA, though funding is needed to pay overtime and standby allowance to address abalone poaching around the islands. Capacity development is a priority in the area of law enforcement and in operating at sea under arduous and dangerous conditions. Skilled skippers are needed who can operate in all sea conditions during day and night.

Current budget (2.5/3)

The current MPA budget for the MPA is provided by DEA as part of the SANParks' MTEF budget allocation. There is a dedicated MPA budget for the park.

Security of current budget (3/3)

The budget is provided through a budget allocation for a MTEF period.

Income (N/A)

The MPA does not currently generate income but possible opportunities exist from whale watching and shark diving.

Law enforcement (2.5/3)

The MPA currently has a highly-effective enforcement team that has set a high precedent of successful cases against transgressors. Insufficient funds to pay overtime and standby allowances means that teams are not continually available to control illegal activities.

PROCESS

Annual plan of operation (0/3)

No annual plan of operation exists. This results in reactive management as opposed to proactive management taking place.

Biodiversity resource management (2.5/3)

The development of an APO will greatly aid the fulfillment of this component, though effective enforcement is ensuring the protection of marine biodiversity resources.

Heritage resource management (3/3)

Maintenance of the graves and lighthouse is taking place on Bird Island.

Human resources management (2.5/3)

The current staff component is adequate for the management of the MPA. This will need reviewing as soon as the larger MPA is proclaimed. Issues of consistency of salaries across conservation agencies were raised as many SANParks personnel are leaving to join provincial conservation agencies or DEA due to better salary packages.

Administrative systems (1/3)

Administrative systems are excellent but are considered very complex to implement. PFMA processes are difficult to implement and make operational implementation difficult too, with the result that excessive time is spent on them as opposed to being in the field.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

The MPA is well equipped though there is a need for regular replacement and maintenance of capital equipment such as boat engines due to the harsh operating conditions for this equipment. A maintenance budget is available and replacement of any capital items forms part of the capital expenditure of the broader park, both marine and terrestrial.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

Equipment is generally well maintained. A maintenance budget is available and replacement of any capital items forms part of the capital expenditure of the broader park, both marine and terrestrial.

Education and awareness programme (2/3)

Ad hoc MPA awareness is taking place over key dates such as marine week and the annual coastal clean-up and is supported by funding from the Working for the Coast project. A dedicated programme of work should be listed within the APO and which the SANParks People and Conservation Programme can support.

Neighbours (2/3)

Currently there is limited engagement with commercial and recreational fisheries operating within the area of the MPA. Better support and collaboration in addressing these sectors is needed from DEA and DAFF.

Advisory committee (2/3)

The current Addo Elephant National Park Forum does not cover marine issues. It is suggested that once the enlarged MPA is proclaimed a dedicated MPA forum is established. Current stakeholder engagement processes regarding the proposed MPA will assist greatly in the development of such a forum.

Community partners (0/3)

See point above.

Commercial tourism (N/A)

No commercial tourism is currently taking place within MPA boundaries.

Performance evaluation system (2.5/3)

State of area management integrity assessments, state of biodiversity assessments and the state of MPA management assessment are regularly undertaken. Personnel also have KPAs in place that are regularly assessed.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

Visitor facilities on Bird Island have recently been upgraded and are in good condition. Current visitors are limited to film crews and researchers.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

Abalone poaching around the islands is having a negative impact on populations of this species though increased law enforcement is reducing the negative impact of this illegal activity.

Heritage condition assessment (3/3)

All heritage assets have been demarcated and are maintained where appropriate and in consultation with SAHRA.

Protection systems (2.5/3)

Regular patrolling has limited the negative impact of illegal abalone poaching, though this is costly and equipment needs continued maintenance due to the operational requirements in rough conditions. Night patrolling is difficult.

Economic and social benefit assessment (2/3)

Employment has been provided for 24 persons through the EPWD programme and all staff have received additional training. Two permanent MPA staff positions exist. The protection of fish resources is benefiting surrounding commercial and recreational fisheries

CHAPTER 3 CAPENATURE

1: CONTEXT	VALUE	Betty's Bay	De Hoop	Stilbaai	Goukamma	Robberg
1.1. Legal status	3	3	3	3	3	3
1.2. Protected area regulations	3	2	2	2	3	2
1.3. Boundary demarcation	3	1	3	3	2	2
1.4. Biodiversity resource inventory	3	1	1	2	2	1
1.5. Heritage resource inventory	3	1	2	3	1	3
Subtotal	15	8 (53%)	11 (73%)	13 (87%)	11 (73%)	11 (73%)
2: PLANNING	VALUE	Betty's Bay	De Hoop	Stilbaai	Goukamma	Robberg
2.1. Protected area design	3	2	1.5	3	2	2
2.2. Strategic management plan	3	2	2	2	2	2
2.3. Conservation development framework	3	1	1	N/A	3	2
2.4. Land and water use planning outside PA	3	3	2	1	3	2
Supplementary items	5	4	4.5	4	4.5	2
Subtotal	17	12 (71%)	11 (65%)	10/14 (71%)	14.5 (85%)	10 (59%)
3: INPUTS	VALUE	Betty's Bay	De Hoop	Stilbaai	Goukamma	Robberg
3.1. Research and monitoring programme	3	2	1	2	2	1
3.2. Human resource capacity	3	1	1	1	1.5	1
3.3. Current budget	3	2	1	2	2	2
3.4. Security of budget	3	3	3	3	3	3
3.5. Income	3	N/A	2	N/A	1	2
3.6. Law enforcement	3	1	1	1.5	2	2
Subtotal	18	9/15 (60%)	8 (44%)	9.5/15 (63%)	11.5 (64%)	11 (61%)
4: PROCESS	VALUE	Betty's Bay	De Hoop	Stilbaai	Goukamma	Robberg
4.1. Annual plan of operation	3	1	2	3	2	2
4.2. Biodiversity resource management	3	2	1	2	1.5	2

4.3. Heritage resource management	3	3	3	2	2	3
4.4. Human resource management	3	2	1	3	1	2
4.5. Administrative systems	3	1	1	2	1	2
4.6. Operational equipment and infrastructure	3	2	2	3	2.5	2
4.7. Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure	3	2	2	2	2	2
4.8. Education and awareness programme	3	1	2	1	2	2
4.9. Neighbours	3	3	2	2	2.5	3
4.10. Advisory committee/ Forum	3	3	1	2	2	2
4.11. Community partners	3	2	1	2	2	2
4.12. Commercial tourism	3	1	0	1	1	2
4.13. Performance evaluation system	3	3	1.5	2	2	2
Supplementary items	3	2	1	3	3	3
Subtotal	42	28 (67%)	20.5 (49%)	30 (71%)	26.5 (63%)	31 (74%)
5: OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES	VALUE	Betty's Bay	De Hoop	Stilbaai	Goukamma	Robberg
5.1. Visitor facilities	3	2	2	2	2	2
5.2. Ecological condition assessment	3	1	2	2	2	2
5.3. Heritage condition assessment	3	3	3	2	N/A	3
5.4. Protection systems	3	2	2	3	1	2
5.5. Economic and social benefit assessment	3	2	2	3	2	2
Supplementary items	2	0	1	2	2	2
Subtotal	17	10 (63%)	12 (75%)	14 (88%)	9/14 (64%)	13 (81%)
Total (Score)	109/109	67/106	63/109	77/103	73/106	76/109
Total 2013	100%	63%	58%	75%	69%	70%

3.1 CapeNature Overview

While not assessed during this process it should be noted that since the 2009 assessment, CapeNature has identified the need for focused management in the fields of MPAs, islands and estuaries. To this extent CapeNature has set up and implemented an over-arching MPA, Islands and Estuaries Programme aimed at providing support to the individual coastal units. The programme co-ordinates all administrative actions with partners/ funders as well as stakeholder awareness, compliance monitoring, research and biological monitoring efforts. The overall aim of the programme is to effectively integrate coastal management into the day-to-day management of CapeNature.

CapeNature also hosts the Cape Estuaries Programme which promotes effective estuary management in the Western Cape and South Africa. Lessons learned within this programme are shared with the individual CapeNature coastal management units assessed during this process.

The objectives for the MPAs and islands managed by CapeNature are provided in their respective management plans. Threats to the MPAs and islands were also identified in the management plans. The objectives and threats provided are the same for all MPAs and islands and have been listed below.

Objectives:

Biophysical

- To conserve and manage biodiversity and natural processes representative of Western Cape terrestrial and marine ecological systems;
- To protect depleted, endangered and endemic species and populations and to protect habitats which are important for the survival and revival of these species and populations, and
- To contribute towards the long-term viability of marine fisheries.

Socio-economic

- To promote non-consumptive, ecotourism opportunities;
- To provide opportunities for marine ecological research and monitoring of environmental effects of human activities on marine ecosystems, and
- To facilitate the interpretation of marine ecosystems for the promotion of conservation among scholars and tourists.

Governance

- To reduce conflicts between competing users in the MPA and surrounding areas;
- To ensure that appropriate and effective legal structures are developed for protecting the biodiversity of the MPA and the activities that benefit from it, and
- To fulfill South Africa's international commitment to marine protection in terms of international protocols and conventions.

Threats MPA:

- Illegal fishing;
- Oil spills;
- Illegal harvesting of abalone (linked to crime syndicates);
- Over-exploitation of bait organisms, and
- Changes in policy.

Threats islands:

- Commercial fisheries;
- Tourism/ illegal activities;
- Poor land-based management of waste sites;

- Oil spills, and
- Avian diseases.

3.2 Betty's Bay MPA

3.2.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Betty's Bay MPA is situated at the western end of the Agulhas bioregion. The coastal town of Betty's Bay lies adjacent to the MPA and the Kogelberg Nature Reserve (also managed by CapeNature) is within close proximity to the MPA. The MPA forms part of the core zone of the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) designated Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve.

There are diverse habitats within the MPA including rocky shores, exposed sandy beaches, estuaries, subtidal reefs and kelp forests. The area is productive and supports a rich diversity of fish, invertebrate and algal species as well as populations of two IUCN Red Data species, namely the African penguin and bank cormorant. The MPA is important for the protection of abalone, West Coast rock lobster, linefish species and the African penguin.

There are a variety of tourist attractions in and associated with the MPA including recreational shore angling, surfing and kite surfing, visits to the penguin colony and the whaling station, swimming and bathing, hiking and boating.

Threats:

- Abalone poaching;
- Over-exploitation by shore anglers;
- Overexploitation of intertidal organisms;
- Development in the adjacent areas (increase population pressure and disturbance of dune dynamics), and
- Accumulation of discarded fishing line and tackle.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- No MPA specific regulations are in place.
- Trained and skilled personnel need to be permanently employed.
- A larger allocation of funding needs to be negotiated for additional staff.
- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme needs to be designed and implemented.
- Education programmes and workshops need to target the affected communities and resource users.
- There needs to be meaningful engagement with local stakeholders using varied methods according to the community characteristics.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

Despite the relatively small size of the Betty's Bay MPA, this area is complex to manage given the high incidence of abalone and West Coast rock lobster poaching supported by organised crime. The current staff component is considered inadequate and ill-equipped to deal with this illegal activity and health and safety requirements for operating under such conditions are not being met. The current staff positions also need to be filled with permanent employees to ensure effective management of the MPA. A minimum of three additional field rangers is needed. This situation is as a result of an inadequate budget that only funds the appointment of two contractual personnel with little funding being available for operational management, further funds should be made available for capacity development with regard to MPA management.

A full budget review is needed for this MPA. To help address the current levels of poaching within the MPA, there is a need to draw up and implement a combined compliance strategy that involves all other enforcement agencies within the area.

The management of the African penguin colony at Stony Point will need inclusion within the revised management plan. Currently all funds generated from the colony go to the Overstrand Municipality and yet CapeNature is undertaking much of the monitoring and management of the colony. Bank, white breasted and Cape cormorant numbers are increasing at Stony Point as are penguin numbers. Links exist between the Stony Point population and the Dyer Island population and there is a need for an over-arching management strategy to be achieved through a penguin management plan. As of 1 July 2014, CapeNature took official responsibility for management of the penguin colony which will enable better management of this important resource by CapeNature.

Priority actions: Betty's Bay MPA

1. Undertake a full budget review that will enable the permanent employment of sufficient staff to effectively manage the MPA with the associated operational budget included;
2. Develop and implement an annual plan of operations;
3. Ensure proactive and integrated management of the African penguin colony at Stony Point and determine links with the Dyer Island colony and needs for protection of foraging areas;
4. Develop an integrated inter-agency compliance strategy;
5. Re-zone the MPA as a full no-take MPA with the inclusion of a night-time diving ban to curb illegal activities;
6. Implement a comprehensive research and monitoring programme for the MPA, and
7. Develop a volunteer programme within the MPA.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

3.2.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The Betty's Bay MPA was initially declared as the H.F. Verwoerd marine reserve. It was re-proclaimed under the MLRA in 2000 as the Betty's Bay MPA. There are no specific regulations for the MPA under the MLRA; however the regulations do provide that shore angling is allowed. Stakeholder consultation is currently underway around the re-zonation of the MPA to make it a complete no take MPA.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

Betty's Bay MPA has a high incidence of abalone and West Coast rock lobster poaching and with the limited number of staff available to manage the MPA, it is virtually impossible to curb this illegal activity. The introduction of a night diving ban would assist management in the curbing of the poaching activity. Combined operations between CapeNature, DAFF, SAPS and local stakeholders such as Seawatch are crucial to improving compliance.

Boundary demarcation (1/3)

Although beacons do exist that indicate the eastern and western boundary of the reserve, these are not visible from the sea. CapeNature is busy with the surveying of the current beacons to ensure that they are in the correct position. Once the survey has been completed and authenticated, highly visible beacons will be put in place that can be easily seen from sea.

Biodiversity resource inventory (1/3)

Adequate information exists to manage the biodiversity within the Betty's Bay MPA, however increased monitoring is required. The Cape Peninsula University of Technology is assisting the MPA with ecological studies and monitoring. A partnership has been developed with DEA to focus on priority monitoring and research is currently underway to monitor linefish and abalone stocks using BRUVs and other tools.

Heritage resource inventory (1/3)

The Betty's Bay slipway, located near the western boundary of the MPA is an old whaling station. There is no disturbance of the site and the Overstrand Municipality deals with any heritage issues.

PLANNING

Protected area design (2/3)

The MPA extends along the shore for 3km, between a beacon at Stony Point (western boundary) and a beacon to the east of Jock's Bay, and extends two nautical miles offshore from the high water mark. A total area of 20.14km² is incorporated in the MPA. The MPA is not zoned and is managed as a controlled zone. Shore angling is the only consumptive activity that is permitted. A focused project has been underway since 2008 that is looking at increasing the area under no-take protection within the Kogelberg. CapeNature and the Kogelberg Marine Working Group are now driving this. A rationale document has been submitted to DEA: O&C to re-zone the current MPA as a full no-take MPA. CapeNature and DEA: O&C will now need to enter into a stakeholder engagement process to take this forward.

Strategic management plan (2/3)

A strategic management plan for the Betty's Bay MPA was developed and implemented in 2009. This management plan is soon due for review (2014), but should consider the timing of the proposal to have the MPA proclaimed as a full no-take MPA. The management of the African penguin colony at Stony Point will need inclusion within the revised management plan and a separate species protection plan will need to be developed for the African penguin.

Conservation development framework (1/3)

No conservation development framework exists for the MPA though the MPA is zoned as a controlled zone.

Land and water use planning (3/3)

Regular meetings are held with the Overstrand Municipality to address any land and water use planning issues and the MPA is included within the spatial development framework for the area.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (2/3)

Current staff capacity in the MPA does not allow for adequate ongoing monitoring. For this reason, CapeNature is partnering with the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and DEA to undertake priority research and monitoring. A monitoring and research working group has been developed to enable implementation.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

Betty's Bay MPA is severely understaffed and the situation is further exacerbated by the fact that the MPA manager and field ranger are only employed on a contractual basis. Both of these positions need to be permanent to ensure effective management of the MPA. Given that the area is prone to high levels of illegal poaching against abalone and West Coast rock lobster stocks a minimum team of three additional field rangers is needed. This will allow for shift work to take place. Betty's Bay MPA is also ideally situated to develop a volunteer programme where members of the local community support the MPA with aspects such as litter collection and monitoring of biodiversity resources.

Current budget (2/3)

The current budget is inadequate for effective management and needs to be boosted to ensure permanent employment of the current staff as well as expanding the staff component. The budget only covers basic operational costs with no buffer being available for the maintenance and replacement of capital items. External support is funding the research and monitoring programme.

Security of current budget (3/3)

CapeNature and DEA: O&C have recently entered into an open-ended MoU that will ensure continued availability of budget. However, this budget does not take the rate of inflation into account and that in effect means that over the years, the effectiveness of the available budget is diminished thereby reducing management effectiveness.

Income (N/A)

No income is generated by the MPA although the opportunity exists to receive a portion of the income generated from the African penguin colony at Stony Point. Currently all funds generated from the colony go to the Overstrand Municipality despite the fact that CapeNature is undertaking much of the monitoring and management of the colony.

Law enforcement (1/3)

As mentioned above, the current staff complement cannot deal effectively with the high levels of poaching within the MPA. A number of combined operations with other enforcement agencies have been effective in dealing with illegal issues and it is recommended that an integrated inter-agency compliance plan is developed for the MPA and surrounding area which ensures co-operation between all enforcement agencies within the area. Increasing the staff component as suggested above will also improve enforcement effectiveness.

PROCESS

Annual plan of operation (1/3)

A basic work plan exists, but this only schedules certain activities and is not linked to the management plan. This results in management that is largely reactive as opposed to proactive. An ecological work plan is in place.

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

Until staff components are increased and further partnerships are developed, the management of the biodiversity resources will remain inadequate, particularly given the current high levels of poaching found within the MPA. The re-zonation of the MPA will assist in improved management effectiveness of biodiversity resources.

Heritage resource management (3/3)

Overstrand Municipality currently manages and maintains the whaling station at Stony Point.

Human resources management (2/3)

The motivation of the current two staff members at the Betty's Bay MPA is high and major improvements in the management of the MPA have been noted since the last assessment in 2009. However, unless staff components are increased, staff burn-out will take place. Both staff members need increased capacity development in regards with MPA management and should both attend further marine-related management training courses.

Administrative systems (1/3)

Current procurement requirements of the PFMA are tedious and require large amounts of time in order to adhere to the requirements. This means that valuable operational management time is lost at ground level. An administrative assistant is needed for the MPA (half-day) so as to free the current manager to be able to undertake operational tasks.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

Although vast improvements have been made in the availability of operational equipment, this is still inadequate for the effective functioning of the MPA. A permanent and secure boat house is in the process of being built and should be operational before the end of 2014. There are concerns around some of the current law enforcement equipment such as bulletproof vests which are not meeting health and safety requirements. This needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency, especially given that the staff regularly has to face large groups of poachers, often at night. A vehicle (tractor or 4x4 vehicle) is also needed to pull and launch the current patrol vessel.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

Current budgets do not consider the maintenance of or replacement of capital equipment. Better storage facilities are needed.

Education and awareness programme (1/3)

The small number of staff at Betty's Bay MPA makes it difficult to undertake education and awareness programmes with the result that any activities are undertaken on an ad hoc basis. CapeNature have conducted a marine outreach programme throughout the Western Cape but there is no dedicated programme for this MPA. Support is needed from the CapeNature community conservation staff and it may be possible to make use of volunteers to develop an education and awareness programme.

Neighbours (3/3)

The Betty's Bay MPA receives high levels of support from the Kogelberg Marine Working Group, ratepayers, neighbourhood watch, Seawatch and the community-policing forum.

Advisory committee (3/3)

The Kogelberg Marine Working Group, which comprises governmental and provincial agencies as well as ratepayers, NGOs and recently also representatives from the fisher communities, has been functioning for a long period of time and supports the MPA and allows issues to be tabled. This forum is largely driving the improved management of marine resources within the Kogelberg area.

Community partners (2/3)

See above.

Commercial tourism (1/3)

No commercial tourism is currently taking place within the MPA.

Performance evaluation system (3/3)

Quarterly reporting is taking place to DEA. CapeNature has developed a marine audit that is in the process of being implemented and the state of MPA report is regularly undertaken by WWF and DEA: O&C.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

The Overstrand Municipality is in the process of developing a visitor center at Stony Point where the African penguin and old whaling station is located. This does not provide information on the broader MPA outside of the penguin colony.

Ecological condition assessment (1/3)

Abalone and West Coast rock lobster poaching is severely degrading the ecological integrity of the MPA and the allowing of shore-based angling within the MPA further compounds this issue. The approval of the rationale document that has been tabled with DEA: O&C for the closing of the MPA to all forms of fishing and the inclusion of a night diving ban will assist in rectifying the current situation.

Heritage condition assessment (3/3)

Overstrand Municipality is responsible for the management and maintenance of the old whaling station at Stony Point.

Protection systems (2/3)

Access to the Betty's Bay MPA is extremely difficult to control given the proximity of other slipways within the Kogelberg area. Most illegal activity within the MPA comes from outside areas with Hawston and Kleinmond being particularly problematic. Access is controlled through the slipway at Stony Point. Through an integrated approach to compliance with the support of all enforcement agencies operating within the area, better controls can be achieved.

Economic and social benefit assessment (2/3)

The African penguin colony at Stony Point has a high visitor turnover per annum and generates significant funding for the area. Local fisheries benefit from the spillover of West Coast rock lobster from the MPA.

3.3 De Hoop MPA

3.3.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The De Hoop MPA is located adjacent to the De Hoop Nature Reserve, a World Heritage Site, and the Overberg Test Range (missile testing) on the south coast of the Western Cape. The MPA includes rocky platforms, boulder bays, sandy beaches and subtidal rocky reefs and sandy benthos. Land access is only via the De Hoop Nature Reserve. The MPA supports a rich diversity of intertidal biota, protects reef fish, provides a refuge for several over-exploited fish species and is a critically important nursery area for the southern right whale. The MPA is also an important breeding area for African black oystercatchers.

Recreational activities in, and associated with, the MPA include the famous De Hoop Whale Trail, snorkeling, whale watching, swimming, bathing and hiking. Threats to the marine environment in the MPA include commercial line fishing, recreational and subsistence fishing from ski-boats, spear-fishing, shore-based angling, abalone poaching and vessel source pollution.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- MPA specific regulations need to be promulgated.
- There has been no permanent reserve manager at De Hoop since 2007 and many key staff members have also left. The lack of leadership and team strength that resulted may have reversed some of the improvements to management that have been previously implemented in the MPA since the last assessment in 2003. Some of the previous systems and plans remain; however, due to changes in staff structure and skill, these are not being implemented effectively.
- Staff lack basic skills required for operations in MPAs.
- Sea-going capabilities are still limited despite the availability of a patrol boat.
- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme needs to be designed and implemented.
- Education programmes and workshops need to target the affected communities and resource users.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

From the assessment it is apparent that the management of the MPA is not seen as a priority and there is little support for effective and proper management. Numerous illegal activities are taking place within the MPA and are not being addressed. Hopefully this situation will change with the arrival of a new MPA manager. Staff numbers for the effective management of the MPA are insufficient and this is as a result of there being insufficient budget to employ permanent staff. Current budget expenditure needs to be closely monitored and prioritised to ensure proper management of the MPA. Monitoring programmes have not been maintained and general maintenance of all equipment is poor with resultant waste of expenditure to undertake repairs.

Priority actions: De Hoop MPA

1. Ensure high level CapeNature support and monitoring for the management of the MPA;
2. Undertake a full budget review that will allow for the appointment of permanent MPA personnel;
3. Implement an integrated compliance and enforcement programme;
4. Re-initiate the monitoring programme designed for the MPA, and
5. Improve maintenance and care of the patrol vessel.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

3.3.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The De Hoop MPA was initially proclaimed in 1985 and then re-proclaimed under the MLRA in 2000. The adjacent De Hoop Nature Reserve is part of the Cape Floral Region World Heritage Site which was listed under the World Heritage Convention Act 1999 in July 2004.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

The entire De Hoop MPA is a no-take zone.

Boundary demarcation (3/3)

Boundary beacons are in place and the boundaries of the MPA are well known but are often ignored. Locals have removed signage listing the co-ordinates of the MPA that have been placed at the nearby slipways at Arniston and Struisbaai. Co-ordinates have also been published within local newspapers.

Biodiversity resource inventory (1/3)

Biodiversity resources are well known and recorded for the coastal and near-shore components of the MPA. However, greater understanding is needed of the deeper waters of the MPA. Maintenance of monitoring programmes is an issue but proposals are being developed to rectify this through discussions with DEA and DAFF.

Heritage resource inventory (2/3)

A management plan has been developed regarding the heritage assets at De Hoop and indicates how they should be managed.

PLANNING

Protected area design (1.5/3)

The length of the shoreline of the current MPA is 46km and it extends three nautical miles offshore. The total area of the MPA is 253km². The entire area is a no-take zone. Although the size and shape of the MPA is adequate, the Breede River estuary should be included within the

MPA as this estuary is an important fish nursery area and impacts ecological processes within the MPA. The offshore marine programme within SANBI is also considering seaward expansion.

Strategic management plan (2/3)

The previous MPA management plan was drawn up in 2006 and is now in the process of being incorporated into the strategic management plan for the larger De Hoop Nature Reserve complex. The current MPA plan will be updated and incorporated as a lower level plan into the larger strategic management plan.

Conservation development framework (1/3)

The conservation development framework for the De Hoop Nature Reserve complex that includes the MPA is in the process of being updated. Potential issues to note within the revised document will be the development footprint at Koppie Alleen and the development of the Whale Trail 2. The impacts that these developments might have on the MPA need to be carefully considered.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

The testing of missiles and other armaments by the adjacent Overberg Test Range need close monitoring. Dr Colin Attwood from UCT undertook a study of the impact of testing on the MPA and found results to be negligible. Any large-scale military exercises in close proximity to the MPA need to be closely monitored with particular reference to their impact on breeding southern right whale populations.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (1/3)

There appears to be a lack of co-ordination of monitoring and research programmes within the MPA. Previous monitoring and research protocols and priorities existed for the MPA, but it appears that these are largely being ignored. The CapeNature MPAs, Islands and Estuaries Programme is addressing this issue. The newly appointed MPA manager needs to meet with the regional ecologist for the Overberg area and DEA: O&C's scientific support service to re-evaluate the research and monitoring priorities and ensure implementation.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

An MPA conservator has only recently been appointed after a long gap where no conservator for the MPA was present. It is of concern that the filling of the post was not seen as a priority as this had negative implications for effective management of the MPA. Only one dedicated MPA field ranger exists and both this position and the MPA conservator position are contractual posts. The field rangers from the terrestrial reserve provide support to the MPA on occasion but this is inadequate for proper management of the MPA. Ideally the current marine conservator post needs to be upgraded to a full MPA manager and a team of at least four permanent field rangers is needed to allow for shift work to be undertaken.

Current budget (1/3)

The current budget is inadequate to appoint the minimum number of required personnel and to purchase a dedicated 4x4 vehicle for the MPA. The current budget barely covers the minimum costs of operational management and does not consider the costs of replacing or maintaining capital items.

Security of current budget (3/3)

DEA: O&C and CapeNature have entered into an open-ended MoU that will ensure provision of a budget for the MPA. This budget does not however consider the actual operating costs of the MPA nor does it consider the high rate of inflation. This in effect means that the effectiveness of the provided budget is decreasing year on year.

Income (2/3)

No income is currently generated by the MPA itself, though the popular Whale Trail does run along the coastline of the MPA. Funding generated by the Whale Trail is absorbed into the larger

CapeNature funding stream and does not specifically benefit the MPA.

Law enforcement (1/3)

Law enforcement has deteriorated within the MPA over the last two to three years and there is an increase of illegal activities taking place. This includes abalone poaching, ski-boat fishing with access from the eastern boundary and ski-boat fishing and spearfishing taking place at Martha's Reef. Small-scale fishers from Arniston continue to ignore MPA regulations and fish within reserve boundaries. A formal legal opinion is required to address the legal validity of the "Wiley Letter" which historically allowed some fishers to fish within the De Hoop MPA. CapeNature and DEA: O&C need to address this as a matter of urgency. It is hoped that with the appointment of a MPA conservator, improvements with law enforcement will occur. Inadequate numbers of staff make access control difficult.

PROCESS

Annual plan of operation (2/3)

An annual work plan is developed and submitted to the CapeNature MPAs, Islands and Estuaries programme manager, quarterly plans are drawn up in accordance to MoU requirements with DEA: O&C.

Biodiversity resource management (1/3)

Limited MPA capacity is restricting the effective management of biodiversity. CapeNature has employed a marine scientist to start setting up this support.

Heritage resource management (3/3)

All heritage assets are being managed in accordance to the management plan.

Human resources management (1/3)

Human resources support is needed to ensure vacant MPA positions are timeously filled and support is given for MPA related training and career pathing.

Administrative systems (1/3)

Administrative systems are tedious and time consuming resulting in ineffective operational management. These systems are requirements in terms of the PFMA and do not generally consider the isolated positions of the MPAs. The fact that all procurement needs to be done using the Western Cape supplier database means that opportunities for making use of local service providers is limited as many service providers do not see value in registering on the supplier database.

Operational equipment & infrastructure (2/3)

The MPA is in need of a dedicated vehicle to tow the patrol boat and there is a need for boat storage at the Breede River, although this is now being addressed. This will assist in easy launching of the patrol boat and will assist in law enforcement effectiveness. The current budget does not consider the replacement of capital equipment.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

The patrol boat has recently been repaired and upgraded and now needs to have proper and regular maintenance undertaken on it. A proper storage area is needed for the patrol boat as it was previously left out in the open, which increased deterioration, this is now being addressed. The current budget does not consider the replacement of capital equipment.

Education and awareness programme (2/3)

A marine educational and awareness programme is incorporated into the programme offered at the Potberg Environmental Education center that lies within the De Hoop Nature Reserve complex. CapeNature has also developed a marine awareness programme across the Western Cape and the community conservation officer within the Overberg also provides support. Most education and awareness is ad hoc and a co-ordinated programme needs to be developed and included within the annual workplan.

Neighbours (2/3)

There is good communication and cooperation with farm neighbours and the Overberg Test Range. Communication and support from Arniston fishers is sometimes problematic, though efforts are being made to address this by the community conservation officer for the Overberg and who is based in Hermanus.

Advisory committee (1/3)

No formal advisory committee exists but with the stakeholder process that will soon be starting and which is required for the review of the strategic management plan, this component should be addressed.

Community partner (1/3)

As above.

Commercial tourism (0/3)

No commercial tourism is currently taking place within the MPA itself, though the Whale Trail runs along the coastline of the MPA. The tourism staff of CapeNature deal with this component.

Performance evaluation system (1.5/3)

CapeNature has developed a MPA audit that will soon be implemented and undertaken on a regular basis. The WWF and DEA state of MPA assessment is undertaken on a regular basis every few years.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

The popular five-day Whale Trail runs along the coastline of the MPA and a visitor interpretation centre is available at Koppie Alleen. Current visitor facilities are adequate for the MPA.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

As mentioned above, illegal activities are increasing within MPA boundaries due to the lack of prioritisation by reserve management staff. This is having a negative impact on ecological integrity and needs addressing. Improved compliance will be a priority action for the newly appointed MPA conservator.

Heritage condition assessment (3/3)

Heritage assets are being managed in accordance to the management plan.

Protection systems (2/3)

Law enforcement has deteriorated within the MPA over the last two to three years and there is an increase of illegal activities taking place. It is hoped that with the appointment of a MPA conservator, improvements with law enforcement will occur. Inadequate numbers of staff make access control difficult.

Economic and social benefit assessment (2/3)

Economic benefits are derived through the Whale Trail which is a highly popular tourism activity and which employs a number of contractual staff members from the local community. An EPWP Working for the Coast team is also employed on a contractual basis. A group of local fishers from Arniston feel that the MPA has negatively impacted on their livelihoods as they claim that they no longer have access to all of their historical fishing grounds.

3.4 Stilbaai MPA

3.4.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Stilbaai MPA is situated along the southern coast of the Western Cape, west of Mossel Bay. The ecology and habitats represented in the MPA are not unique and instead consist of features that are typical to the warm-temperate south coast. The MPA includes the Goukou estuary, sandy beaches, a shallow sandstone shelf and rocky shores. The Goukou estuary is permanently open and highly productive forming an important nursery area for coastal fish. This is the first estuary to be included within an MPA in the Western Cape. Reef fish species, southern right whales, two species of eel and ragged tooth sharks are represented in the MPA. A unique feature of the MPA is the culturally and historically significant stone-age fish traps known as “visvywers”). These are one of two remaining functional visvywers in South Africa. The coastal town of Stilbaai is set around the banks of the Goukou estuary and borders on a large part of the MPA.

Threats:

- High recreational boating activity on the estuary during peak seasons;
- Water extraction from the estuary resulting in siltation;
- Land source pollution in the estuary;
- Commercial linefish and oyster industries (currently 17 commercial linefishers landing catch in Stilbaai, however the fishing occurs on the border of the MPA and not within the MPA itself);
- Development on and the disturbance of the primary dunes;
- Illegal gill netting in the visvywers, and
- Over-exploitation of intertidal invertebrates.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

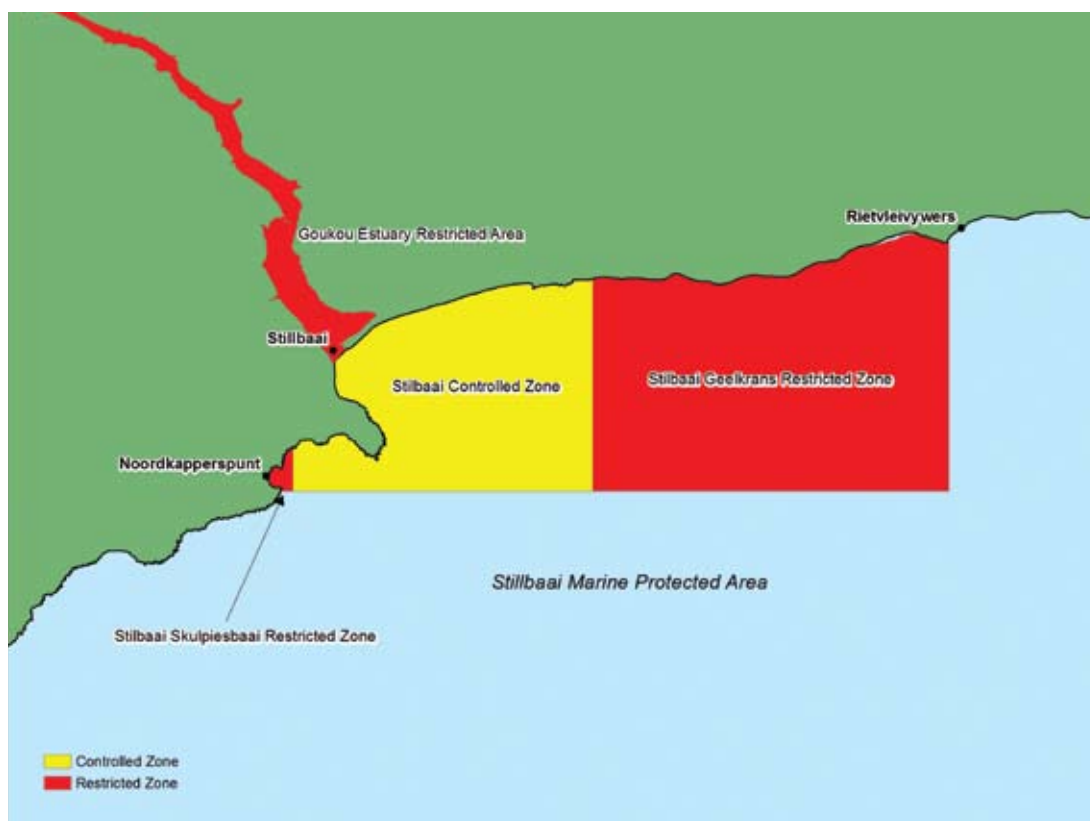
- Signage could be improved by providing bold illustrations of do's and don'ts and indicating the position of the reader on the map.
- Monitoring of socio-economic conditions and the effects of the MPA on local communities should be planned and implemented.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

It is clear from this assessment that the manager and staff of the Stilbaai MPA are committed and are working hard to ensure effective MPA management. Good enforcement records are showing a decline in the number of incidents and as a result of regular patrolling. All personnel are well equipped and capacitated and equipment is well maintained.

Priority actions: Stilbaai MPA

- Budget is inadequate for the appointment of permanent MPA personnel and increasing field ranger component.
- The MPA management plan will need reviewing and updating in the near future.
- Poor catchment management is causing negative impacts to the MPA. This highlights the need for integrated planning.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

3.4.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The Stilbaai MPA was declared under the MLRA in Government Notice 1109 in October 2008. The GPS co-ordinates and a description of the boundaries were provided. Government Notice R1108 provides comprehensive regulations specific to the MPA. The regulations provide specific objectives for the MPA, define restricted and controlled zones and describe the requirements and procedures for various activities in the MPA.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

The MLRA is being enforced, but there are currently issues with increased coastal development that is taking place. Co-operative governance challenges are increasingly arising due to these developments and highlight the need for close monitoring of EIA processes and RODs as well as the improved implementation of the ICMA.

Boundary demarcation (3/3)

The eastern and western boundaries are well demarcated by beacons and good signage has been placed at key locations and slipways and which gives the co-ordinates of the MPA boundaries.

Biodiversity resource inventory (2/3)

Bathymetry surveys have been completed and it is felt that 90% of the baseline data has been gathered and gaps in information have been identified.

Heritage resource inventory (3/3)

Good information is available on the shell middens and “visvuyers” within the boundaries of the MPA.

PLANNING

Protected Area Design (3/3)

The MPA includes 13.5km of coastline between Noordkapperspunt (Bosbokduin) and Rietvleiwyers and 15.7km of the Goukou estuary. The high water mark on the coast and in the estuary is the landward boundary while the seaward boundary is defined by straight lines extending eastward from Noordkapperspunt to a point 4.2km offshore from Rietvleiwyers and from this offshore point back to the coast at Rietvleiwyers.

There are three restricted zones in the MPA:

- the Geelkrans restricted zone, adjacent to the Geelkrans Nature Reserve at the eastern end of the MPA;
- the Skulpiesbaai restricted zone at Noordkapperspunt, incorporating the vywers, and
- the estuary of the Goukou River from approximately 4km upstream of the mouth to a point 15km from the mouth. The remainder of the MPA is a controlled zone.

Areas critical for the maintenance of the ecological integrity of the MPA and the cultural heritage are included within the MPA's boundaries and afforded extra protection (approximately 75% of the estuary and 20km² of reef systems are restricted). Zones are adequate for all the activities in the MPA.

Strategic management plan (2/3)

The current MPA management plan was developed in 2010 and is being implemented. A review will be required in 2015.

Conservation development framework (N/A)

No conservation development framework has been developed as the MPA is a no-take zone and no further development should take place within it.

Land and water use planning (1/3)

Constant problems exist around water quality and water extraction from the Goukou River, which in turn has negative impacts on the functioning of the estuary. Coastal development is also creating a number of issues. Close co-operation and engagement is required from the local and district municipalities to address these issues.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (2/3)

Research and monitoring priorities have been identified and in some cases are being implemented but there is an issue of limited capacity to carry out further critical work.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

The MPA is functioning with the current staff component but a further two field rangers are needed to ensure full management effectiveness. Staff members are employed on a contractual basis and this needs to be addressed so that they become permanently employed. Limited and insecure budgets are preventing this from happening.

Current budget (2/3)

The current budget is insufficient to employ the appropriate number of staff to manage the MPA. The budget also does not take into account the high rate of inflation and does not consider the replacement or maintenance costs of capital items.

Security of current budget (3/3)

DEA: O&C and CapeNature have entered into an open-ended MoU that will ensure provision of a budget for the MPA. This budget does not however consider the increasing operating costs of the MPA nor does it consider the high rate of inflation. This in effect means that the effectiveness of the provided budget is decreasing year on year.

Income (N/A)

The MPA currently generates no income.

Law enforcement (1.5/3)

The current staff component has been working hard to reduce illegal activities and there has been a definite decline of contraventions over the last few years. The minimal staff component however means that there are still contraventions taking place when staff are not available or are not on duty.

PROCESS**Annual plan of operation (3/3)**

An annual plan of operation which is linked to the management plan and available budget is in place.

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

There is currently a lack of sufficient personnel to achieve this component fully. This lack of personnel often means that current staff members have to work on their own in difficult and dangerous conditions.

Heritage resource management (2/3)

Management of the heritage assets is often difficult due to a lack of support from DAFF and SAHRA in the management of the “visvywers”.

Human resources management (3/3)

The current staff component is well motivated and passionate about their work. The manager for the Stilbaai Nature Reserve complex is enabling and supportive of his staff and ensures that the team is well qualified for their duties.

Administrative systems (2/3)

There is a lack of administrative support for the MPA and tedious administrative processes as a result of the PFMA and CapeNature administrative requirements further complicate this.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (3/3)

Operational equipment and infrastructure is adequate for the current staff component.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

All equipment is maintained to a high standard, though no approved maintenance schedule exists.

Education and awareness programme (1/3)

CapeNature has developed a marine awareness programme across the Western Cape, however MPA education and awareness the Stilbaai MPA is carried out on an ad hoc basis due to limited staff capacity.

Neighbours (2/3)

Good communication and co-operation exists with local neighbours and this has been improved over the years with a relationship of trust having been built up. This is only possible where personnel are permanent and stay in the area for a long period of time. The local fishing community has changed from having a negative attitude towards the MPA to having a positive attitude towards the MPA.

Advisory committee (2/3)

Although there are advisory committee meetings scheduled and a representative sector of the community is invited, many do not attend due to lack of interest.

Community partners (2/3)

As above.

Commercial tourism (1/3)

Commercial tourism takes place on a seasonal basis and due to the lack of staff capacity limited engagement takes place with this sector.

Performance evaluation system (2/3)

CapeNature has developed an MPA audit that will soon be implemented and undertaken on a regular basis. The WWF and DEA state of MPA assessment is undertaken on a regular basis every few years.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

The MPA has no visitor facilities due to the proximity and availability of such facilities in Stilbaai.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

There is strong evidence of improvements in ecological integrity within the MPA since proclamation and monitoring is continuing in order to track these changes. Water quality, water extraction and developments within the estuary zone remain a concern.

Heritage condition assessment (2/3)

There is a lack of co-operative governance regarding the maintenance of the heritage assets and although there is a MoU in place with SAHRA, more effort is required from their side. Maintenance of the fish traps is taking place to ensure functionality.

Protection systems (3/3)

Access to the MPA is strictly controlled and monitored.

Economic and social benefit assessment (3/3)

Fisheries stock recovery is occurring and a study undertaken by DAFF estimates that the ecological goods and services of fisheries exports from the MPA is valued at 13 tons per annum. Job opportunities exist through the EPWP Working for Coast programme that employs 11 people.

3.5 Goukamma MPA

3.5.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Goukamma MPA is situated adjacent to the Goukamma Nature Reserve, on the southern coast of the Western Cape, between Knysna and Sedgefield. The town of Buffalo Bay lies within the Goukamma Nature Reserve on the coast. The shoreline of the MPA is 14km long and consists of rocky and sandy shores and a semi-closed estuary. The landward boundary of the MPA is the high water mark from which the MPA extends one nautical mile offshore. There are offshore reefs and soft sediments within the MPA.

No boat angling is allowed in the MPA while shore angling is permitted for the entire length of the MPA. Oystercatcher breeding areas are included in the MPA and the offshore reefs are an important habitat for commercially exploited fish species. The main activities in the MPA are shore-based line fishing, surfing, boating (traversing beyond MPA to fish), swimming and bathing.

The surrounding towns of Knysna, Sedgefield and Buffalo Bay are popular tourist destinations over the summer and Easter holidays and draw large amounts of recreational anglers and beach users to the area.

Threats:

- Over-exploitation by shore anglers;
- Over-exploitation of offshore reefs on the border of MPA;
- Extraction of water from the estuary which negatively affects the flow of the estuary;
- Bait collecting;
- Dogs disturbing birds on the beaches, and
- Beach wall development.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- Expansion of the MPA's seaward boundaries needs to be considered.
- The zonation of the MPA needs revision that would include provision for no-take zones and would restrict the impact of dogs.
- The management plan needs to be revised with the input of the manager.
- Staff lack basic skills required for operations in MPAs.
- Staff members require training on marine ecology and the applicable MPA legislation.
- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme needs to be designed and implemented (long-term monitoring of dune dynamics and sand movements should be initiated and historical photos of the dunes sourced).
- Education programmes and workshops need to target the affected communities and resource users.
- There needs to be meaningful engagement with local stakeholders using varied methods according to the community characteristics.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

Solid science has indicated the benefits of the closing of the Goukamma MPA to all forms of extraction and has also highlighted the need for a realignment of the current boundary in a manner that will benefit fishers while increasing protection of critical habitats needed by reef fish species.

Support needs to be given to the Goukamma MPA management team in the development and implementation of a realignment strategy of the MPA boundaries that should also consider

increased protection of the estuarine system. Together with this realignment of the boundaries a review of the budget, staff numbers and equipment will be needed to ensure proper management of expanded areas. Proper long-term monitoring and research will continue to be needed to show the long-term benefits of future boundary realignment. Poor catchment management is having a negative impact on the estuary and highlights the need for integration of this system into overall management planning.

Staff members are well capacitated and indicated a very positive and committed spirit towards the management of the MPA. The MPA is well equipped and all equipment is well maintained.

Priority actions: Goukamma MPA

- The budget is currently inadequate for the appointment of permanent MPA personnel and increasing the field ranger component.
- The MPA management plan will need reviewing and updating in the near future.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

3.5.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The Goukamma MPA was initially proclaimed in 1990 and then re-declared under the MLRA in 2000. Specific regulations and objectives were not provided for the MPA under the MLRA; however the provisions in GN 21498 provide that shore angling is permitted.

Protected area regulations (3/3)

Specific regulations and objectives were not provided for the MPA under the MLRA; however the provisions in GN 21498 provide that shore angling is permitted. It was suggested in the previous report that night fishing should be banned so as to facilitate enforcement and reduce the incidence of over-nighting in the reserve, that stricter regulations for shore fishers be implemented in the MPA (one rod per fisher), and that a more flexible system be developed so to allow for the zoning of users, dogs and shore anglers. Revision of the MLRA is not taking place to address these issues. Further challenges are noted in that the local judiciary do not view environmental crimes as a priority and do not set appropriate fines to discourage non-compliance.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

Highly visible poles have been erected demarcating the boundary, but these are not surveyed points.

Biodiversity resource inventory (2/3)

Good baseline work has been undertaken though more information is required on the estuary and shoreline component of the coast. Estuary issues need to be considered together with the MPA as they form one ecological system.

Heritage resource inventory (1/3)

This is not considered a priority of the MPA and as a result little work has been done.

PLANNING

Protected area design (2/3)

The MPA is managed as one zone. There is no formal user zonation on the shore at Goukamma. Basic zoning of activities are accommodated through the management of the adjacent terrestrial area however this is not adequate for the area as there are still conflicts arising over dogs on beaches. Work initiated by Dr Ali Goetz and Dr Sven Kerwath has now been consolidated and a proposal for re-alignment of the current MPA boundaries has been submitted for consideration to DEA: O&C. This re-alignment will ensure greater protection of the reef systems to the west of the current MPA while reducing user conflict in the east of the MPA.

Strategic management plan (2/3)

The Goukamma Reserve complex that includes the MPA is currently in the process of reviewing the strategic management plan to meet requirements of the NEM: PAA. The current MPA plan will need to be revised and updated and be included as a lower level plan within the broader strategic management plan.

Conservation development framework (3/3)

There is an approved zonation plan in place that will need further refinement should the proposal for realignment of the MPA boundaries be approved.

Land and water use planning (3/3)

Although there are limited issues pertaining to adjacent land and water use planning, better communication is needed with the Knysna Municipality, particularly in relation to the estuary and its breeching.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (2/3)

Environmental research and monitoring is taking place on the MPA but little of this is management focused. There is a need to properly define research needs so that a proper monitoring programme may be put in place.

Human resource capacity (1.5/3)

The MPA has no permanently employed personnel and this is problematic due to high staff turnover. Terrestrial reserve field rangers occasionally assist the MPA but in general the MPA is under-capacitated and ideally needs an additional three field rangers to ensure effective management. There is also a need for qualified and experienced skippers.

Current budget (2/3)

The current budget is insufficient to employ the appropriate number of staff to manage the MPA. The budget also does not take into account the high rate of inflation and does not consider the replacement or maintenance costs of capital items.

Security of current budget (3/3)

DEA: O&C and CapeNature have entered into an open-ended MoU that will ensure provision of a budget for the MPA. This budget does not however consider the increasing operating costs of the MPA nor does it consider the high rate of inflation. This in effect means that the effectiveness of the provided budget is decreasing year on year.

Income (1/3)

The MPA currently does not derive income other than through fishing permits, the funds of which are returned to DAFF.

Law enforcement (2/3)

Although there is generally good compliance, regular patrolling is limited by the current MPA staff component. Illegal fishing does take place at night and the lack of sufficient experienced skippers makes boat patrols difficult.

PROCESS

Annual plan of operation (2/3)

An annual workplan is developed and submitted to the CapeNature MPAs, Islands and Estuaries programme manager but is not related to the management plan or budget. It also requires greater detail.

Biodiversity resource management (1.5/3)

Biodiversity management is taking place in accordance to staff capacity and available budget. Increased patrolling of the MPA is assisting in protecting biodiversity resources.

Heritage resource management (2/3)

Little is known about heritage resources in the MPA but they are not considered a management priority and are managed accordingly.

Human resources management (1/3)

Lack of permanent staff for the MPA is affecting morale and the APO is not linked to the KPAs of the individual staff member which often results in poor work performance.

Administrative systems (1/3)

PFMA and CapeNature administrative systems are complex and have high levels of duplication. This means that time that should be spent on operational MPA management has to be spent on administration.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2.5/3)

The MPA is generally well equipped for current needs though no consideration is given to the replacement needs of capital equipment.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

Servicing and maintenance of equipment needs greater attention and complex procurement processes that determine the hiring of service providers further complicate this.

Education and awareness programme (2/3)

An education and awareness programme is included in the APO and is being implemented by MPA personnel with support from CapeNature community conservation personnel.

Neighbours (2.5/3)

A protected area forum is in place and meetings with neighbours, stakeholders and the critical governing agencies are regularly held resulting in largely positive support for the MPA.

Advisory committee (2/3)

As above.

Community partners (2/3)

Community partners are regularly engaged at the protected area forum and they are fully consulted with regards to the updating of the strategic management plan.

Commercial tourism (1/3)

Communication and consultation with commercial tourism is only limited to regulatory issues. Limited commercial tourism is taking place within the MPA.

Performance evaluation system (2/3)

CapeNature has developed an MPA audit that will soon be implemented and undertaken on a regular basis. The WWF and DEA state of MPA assessment is undertaken on a regular basis every few years.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

The Goukamma Reserve complex offers adequate visitor accommodation and facilities for the purpose of the MPA. Good signage is placed at the slipway and entrances points to the MPA.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

Illegal bait harvesting and shore-based angling is having a negative impact on ecological integrity. The proposal to revise the reserve boundaries and zonation plan should address this issue.

Heritage condition assessment (N/A)

Heritage resources in the MPA are not considered a management priority.

Protection systems (1/3)

There are no facilities available to control access at both high-end user points – namely Platbank and Buffalo Bay. Regular patrolling is trying to control illegal activities and night fishing.

Economic and social benefit assessment (2/3)

Fishing has improved on the edges of the MPA due to spillover. Property prices within Buffalo Bay have increased due to the presence of the MPA and the MPA has also assisted with the Blue Flag status of the beach at Buffalo Bay, which in turn brings more tourists to the area.

3.6 Robberg MPA

3.6.1. Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Robberg MPA is situated on the southern coast of the Western Cape, adjacent to the Robberg Nature Reserve. The Nature Reserve is a peninsula with one access point controlled by CapeNature. The length of the shoreline in the MPA is approximately 9.5km and it consists mainly of rocky shores with two sandy beaches making up 1km of the shoreline. The MPA extends one nautical mile offshore around the MPA and includes subtidal reefs and sandy benthos. The area supports exploited reef fish species, a Cape fur seal colony and oystercatchers.

The MPA is situated in close proximity to Plettenberg Bay, which is a popular tourist destination over summer and Easter holidays. Tourist activities in the MPA include whale and seal watching, kayaking, recreational fishing, hiking and swimming and bathing. There are currently plans underway to re-zone the southern margin of the MPA into a no-take area where no fishing will be allowed and DEA: O&C have recently begun stakeholder consultation around this proposal.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- Revision of the MPA's zonation needs to be undertaken (which needs to consider the implementation of a no-take zone).
- The management plan needs to be revised with the input of the manager.
- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme needs to be designed and implemented.
- Interpretative signs for raising awareness about the MPA need to be erected.
- Education programmes and workshops need to target the affected communities and resource users.
- There needs to be meaningful engagement with local stakeholders using varied methods according to the community characteristics.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

MPA staff at Robberg MPA are motivated, well equipped and maintain all equipment to a high standard. Once again, the lack of a sufficient budget curtails more effective MPA management through there being insufficient staff and funding for regular patrolling.

Cape fur seals reside within the MPA and are a major tourist attraction with a number of businesses providing seal viewing and seal diving opportunities. However, no income generated by these external businesses accrues to the MPA and perhaps this should be reviewed.

Although the greater Robberg Nature Reserve complex recently updated their management plan, little focus was given to the MPA. It is suggested that a full review of the current MPA management plan is undertaken and that this then feeds into the larger strategic plan.

Priority actions: Robberg MPA

- Inadequate budget for appointing sufficient personnel;
- Need to appoint permanent MPA staff;
- Determine the value of tourism generated from within MPA through Cape fur seal diving etc. and determine if opportunities exist for the MPA to accrue a direct income from these activities, and
- Review and update MPA management plan.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

3.6.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

Robberg MPA was declared under the MLRA in 2000. No fishing activities are currently permitted in the MPA with the exception of shore angling. Plans are currently underway to create a no-take zone for the southern margin of the MPA.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

No fishing activities are permitted in the MPA with the exception of shore angling. No specific regulations were provided for the MPA in the proclamation. It was indicated that regulations for non-consumptive uses and competitions (kayak races, regattas, swimming and fishing) were needed. A lack of sufficient staff makes enforcement of regulations difficult.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

Given the shape of the MPA around the Robberg peninsula, boundaries are generally known, though the surveying of the boundaries and the placing of beacons could assist further.

Biodiversity resource inventory (1/3)

Although baseline information is known for the MPA, further survey work is needed. Partnerships are being developed with the NMMU and DEA to enable this and it is a priority to undertake a side-scan of the MPA. A BRUV project is in the process of being set up.

Heritage resource inventory (3/3)

The MPA is well researched from a heritage perspective with well-kept records.

PLANNING

Protected area design (2/3)

CapeNature has submitted a proposal to DEA: O&C to include a no-take section on the southern side of the reserve. This will also meet NPAES priorities. It has been listed on the KPAs of DEA: O&C to achieve, and a stakeholder engagement process is currently being implemented.

Strategic management plan (2/3)

The current management plan was drawn up in 2006 and is now out of date. The strategic management plan for the Robberg Nature Reserve that was completed in early 2013 did not include the MPA component. The MPA management plan will therefore need to be updated.

Conservation development framework (2/3)

There is no conservation development framework in place, although a zoning system is in place and all visitor facilities on the adjacent terrestrial reserve are well maintained. This document can be developed at the same time as the management plan.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

Coastal development adjacent to the MPA is placing added land and water planning pressures on the MPA and MPA personnel need to work closely with the local municipality to mitigate these issues.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (1/3)

The MPA is in the process of setting up a MoU with the NMMU and DEA: O&C scientists to enable continued research and monitoring of priorities. Given the minimal staffing component for Robberg MPA, current staff members do not have the capacity to undertake this component of work.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

There is only one dedicated MPA conservator who is employed on a contractual basis. The terrestrial reserve staff members occasionally provide support but this then means terrestrial and estuary management is compromised. An additional component of three field rangers is needed to adequately manage the MPA. All staff members need to be employed on a permanent basis. Due to the topography, Robberg has high health and safety risks needing a minimum of two-man teams. Through increasing the current staff component both the estuary and MPA would be better managed.

Current budget (2/3)

The budget is insufficient to appoint the minimum number of required staff and currently barely covers operational costs.

Security of current budget (3/3)

Although a MoU is in place between DEA: O&C and CapeNature, the budget is insufficient to meet realistic operational management costs and does not consider the replacement of capital items. Furthermore the budget does not consider the current high rate of inflation, which in effect is eroding the effectiveness of funds provided.

Income (2/3)

All funds generated by visitors to Robberg Nature Reserve are returned to CapeNature. External tour operators are bringing visitors by boat and kayak into the MPA mainly to view the Cape fur seal colony, but none of the funds generated from this revert back to the MPA. A fee structure could be considered for access to the seal colony to generate some funds to support MPA management.

Law enforcement (2/3)

Given the current lack of personnel, law enforcement is difficult, though where possible the terrestrial reserve staff provide support. This means that enforcement is reactive or on an ad hoc basis.

PROCESS**Annual plan of operation (2/3)**

An APO exists and is drawn up according to the management plan and available budget.

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

Biodiversity resource management is limited due to insufficient capacity and budget and is largely reactive law enforcement.

Heritage resource management (3/3)

Good management of heritage assets is taking place with assistance from external partners.

Human resources management (2/3)

The lack of MPA staff makes management difficult and is demoralising to the MPA team. All staff need better capacity development relating to MPA management.

Administrative systems (2/3)

Purchasing processes are problematic and tedious due to PFMA requirements. Suppliers need to register on the Western Cape database and many do not wish to do this. Performance management needs improvement.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

Given the current staff numbers for the MPA, operational equipment is adequate.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

Equipment is well maintained, however budgets do not consider the high maintenance or replacement costs of capital equipment.

Education and awareness programme (2/3)

Education and awareness programmes on the MPA are largely ad hoc and limited to key days such as marine week and the coastal clean-up. Until staff numbers are increased, this is unlikely to change.

Neighbours (3/3)

There is good and regular contact with all neighbours.

Advisory committee (2/3)

An advisory committee does exist and meets regularly for the Robberg protected area complex that includes the MPA. Community members currently have little input into the management of the MPA. The role of this committee will be increased when the stakeholder process for the updating of the MPA management plan takes place and the rezonation proposal to close a section of the MPA to fishing is tabled.

Community partners (2/3)

As above.

Commercial tourism (2/3)

Given current staff capacity on the MPA, contact with commercial tour operators is largely limited to regulatory matters and the checking of permits during patrols.

Performance evaluation system (2/3)

CapeNature has developed an MPA audit that will soon be implemented and undertaken on a regular basis. The WWF and DEA state of MPA assessment is undertaken on a regular basis every few years.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES

Visitor facilities (2/3)

Visitor facilities on the Robberg Nature Reserve adjacent to the MPA are good. Trail signage and trails are well maintained.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

Given the difficult terrain at Robberg, coastal ecological integrity is good; despite their being some limited line fishing taking place. Boat activity is limited.

Heritage condition assessment (3/3)

Heritage sites are well managed in accordance to the management plan.

Protection systems (2/3)

Access to the Robberg peninsula by vehicle and foot is well controlled through the access gate. Personnel at the gate could also record fisheries catch data. Access by boat-based tour operators visiting the Cape fur seal is largely uncontrolled, though MPA boat patrols do check permits when at sea.

Economic and social benefit assessment (2/3)

The Robberg Nature Reserve and adjacent MPA have high visitor numbers and generate a substantial income for CapeNature with accruals to the larger community. A number of independent tour operators are generating an income from visits to the Cape fur seal colony and which in turn is creating a number of employment opportunities. The actual value of the MPA needs to be determined.

3.7 Overview: CapeNature Islands

1: CONTEXT	VALUE	Bird (Lamberts)	Dassen	Dyer
1.1. Legal status	3	3	3	3
1.2. Protected area regulations	3	2	2	3
1.3. Boundary demarcation	3	3	2	2
1.4. Biodiversity resource inventory	3	2	2.5	3
1.5. Heritage resource inventory	3	2	2	3
Subtotal	15	12 (80%)	11.5 (77%)	14 (93%)
2: PLANNING	VALUE	Bird (Lamberts)	Dassen	Dyer
2.1. Protected area design	3	2	2	2
2.2. Strategic management plan	3	1	2.5	2.5
2.3. Conservation development framework	3	1	3	3
2.4. Land and water use planning outside PA	3	2	2	2
Supplementary items	5	5	5	5
Subtotal	17	11 (65%)	14.5 (85%)	13.5 (79%)
3: INPUTS	VALUE	Bird (Lamberts)	Dassen	Dyer
3.1. Research and monitoring programme	3	2	3	3
3.2. Human resource capacity	3	2	1	1
3.3. Current budget	3	1	1	1
3.4. Security of budget	3	3	3	3
3.5. Income	3	2	2	N/A
3.5. Law enforcement	3	2	2	1

Subtotal	18	12 (67%)	12 (67%)	9/15 (60%)
4: PROCESS	VALUE	Bird (Lamberts)	Dassen	Dyer
4.1. Annual plan of operation	3	1.5	3	2
4.2. Biodiversity resource management	3	2	2	2
4.3. Heritage resource management	3	2	2	2
4.4. Human resource management	3	2	3	2
4.5. Administrative systems	3	2	2	2
4.6. Operational equipment & infrastructure	3	3	2	2
4.7. Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure	3	2.5	2.5	2
4.8. Education and awareness programme	3	3	2	2
4.9. Neighbours	3	3	2	3
4.10. Advisory committee/ Forum	3	3	2	1
4.11. Community partners	3	2	2	1
4.12. Commercial tourism	3	3	3	1
4.13. Performance evaluation system	3	3	3	3
Supplementary items	3	3	3	3
Subtotal	42	35 (83%)	33.5 (80%)	28 (67%)
5: OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES	VALUE	Bird (Lamberts)	Dassen	Dyer
5.1. Visitor facilities	3	2	2	3
5.2. Ecological condition assessment	3	2	2	3
5.3. Heritage condition assessment	3	2	3	2

5.4. Protection systems	3	2	2	2
5.5. Economic and social benefit assessment	3	3	3	3
Supplementary items	2	2	2	1
Subtotal	17	13 (81%)	14 (88%)	14 (88%)
Total 2013 Score	109/109	83/109	86/109	79/106
Total 2013 (%)	100%	76%	78%	74%

Although the Bird, Dassen and Dyer Islands are not formally recognised MPAs – they are managed as provincial nature reserves by CapeNature – they have been included in this report as they form part of the agency’s MPAs, Islands and Estuaries Programme. The assessment of estuary protected areas should be included in future reports.

3.8 Bird Island Nature Reserve

3.8.1 Overview

DESCRIPTION

Bird Island Nature Reserve lies about 100m off the shore of Lambert's Bay on the Cape's West Coast. Bird Island is one of only six sites world-wide where Cape gannets breed, and it is the only breeding site easily accessible to the public. The island, which is almost 3 hectares in size, is connected to the mainland via a breakwater. It is an important breeding and roosting site for seabirds, particularly Cape gannets and cormorants. Cape fur seals also utilise the island's rocks.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

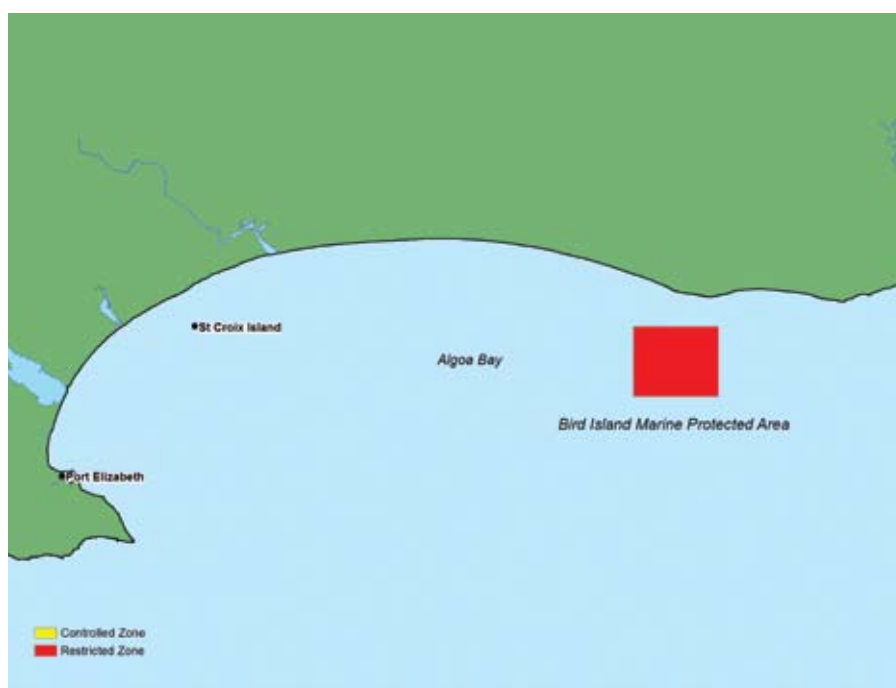
As with all the islands managed by CapeNature, lack of sufficient budget is hampering effective management on Bird Island in Lamberts Bay. A recent boost of funding has been received from the Department of Public Works (DPW) that will ensure the maintenance and repairs of current infrastructure on the island, however long-term funding is needed for operational management.

Although a strategic management plan has been drafted for the island, this needs to be finalised and signed off and should include a conservation development framework. From this document a clear annual plan of operations that is linked to budget must be drawn up and implemented.

Given the ease of access to the island via the harbour slipway, enforcement is made difficult with illegal rock lobster fishing taking place along the breakwater and around the island. DAFF needs to provide support to prevent this.

Priority actions: Bird Island

- A full budget review is needed that will identify actual budget needs. This must then be presented through CapeNature to DEA and must consider current rates of inflation.
- The strategic management plan and develop an annual plan of operation must be finalised.
- DAFF must provide support to CapeNature to prevent illegal access to the breakwater which results in illegal fishing activities and resultant disturbance to nesting seabirds |



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

3.8.2. Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

Bird Island is proclaimed as a provincial nature reserve and is managed by CapeNature.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

Good regulations exist under the provincial nature conservation ordinance but these are often difficult to implement due to limited capacity. Support from DAFF is needed to deal with illegal West Coast rock lobster fishing that is taking place along the harbour walls en-route to the island.

Boundary demarcation (3/3)

The boundary of the island is clearly delineated and extends down to the high water mark.

Biodiversity resource inventory (2/3)

The biodiversity of the island is well known, however, additional work is needed to better understand the intertidal and adjacent marine zones.

Heritage resource inventory (2/3)

All heritage assets on the island are well known and recorded within the management plan.

PLANNING

Protected area design (2/3)

Current boundaries only protect the island above the high water mark. Ideally the island needs a protected marine buffer zone to the seaward side that will protect the adjacent intertidal zone.

Strategic management plan (1/3)

A management plan has been drafted but it still requires a sensitivity analysis and sign off by the CapeNature CEO.

Conservation development framework (1/3)

Given the current upgrading of infrastructure on the island, a conservation development framework is in the process of being drafted.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

Good co-operation exists with the local municipality to address land and water planning issues.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (2/3)

Good communication and co-operation exists with DEA and DAFF to ensure proper and permitted monitoring and research is taking place on the island. CapeNature's Scientific Services undertakes regular monitoring of the bird species on the island and this information is incorporated into management planning.

Human resource capacity (2/3)

Currently the island is well capacitated due to the support of the EPWP and all contractual employees are currently undergoing additional capacity development training to further support island management.

Current budget (1/3)

The current budget is inadequate for proper operational management and without the support of the EPWP, the staff component would be inadequate. The DPW is assisting with the upgrading of all facilities on the island but funds for continued maintenance of these facilities is limited.

Security of current budget (3/3)

The budget for the management of the island is secure, however this budget is not increasing in accordance to the high inflation rate with the result that operational funding is being eroded year after year. High maintenance and the replacement of capital items are not considered within the budget.

Income (2/3)

Bird Island is a popular tourism destination that generates considerable income. All income generated is returned to the CapeNature central budget for distribution across the organisation.

Law enforcement (2/3)

Controlled access to the island facilitates law enforcement; however community members fish illegally for West Coast rock lobster along the harbour walls and walk across the island disturbing the seabirds. Support from DAFF is required to deal with this issue.

PROCESS**Annual plan of operation (1.5/3)**

An APO is drawn up and in place in accordance with the current management plan. This will need to be updated on completion of the management plan that is now under review.

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

Biodiversity management objectives are being met within the constraints of the available budget. The support offered by the EPWP is currently propping up biodiversity management and should this be withdrawn, biodiversity management objectives will not be met.

Heritage resource management (2/3)

All known heritage assets are being managed in accordance to objectives set within the management plan.

Human resources management (2/3)

As mentioned elsewhere the EPWD programme is providing additional contractual personnel that ensure adequate management of the island in accordance to objectives. Without this support, the island will have insufficient human capacity. Current personnel need additional training to better understand MPA management and marine ecology.

Administrative systems (2/3)

Purchasing processes are problematic and tedious due to PFMA requirements. Suppliers need to register on the Western Cape database and many do not wish to do this. The procurement process fails to recognise the isolated location of Bird Island and Lamberts Bay.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (3/3)

All building assets are in the process of being upgraded. Other infrastructure for the management of the island is sufficient.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2.5/3)

All maintenance is scheduled with the DPW but work standard is often low and needs constant supervision and nurturing of the relationship with the DPW.

Education and awareness programme (3/3)

Ad hoc education and awareness is taking place and is largely focused around open days and key dates such as marine week and the coastal clean-up

Neighbours (3/3)

There is a well-established and representative advisory committee in place that addresses management needs. The creation of CapeNature's MPAs, Islands and Estuaries Programme has helped to ensure that there is also good communication and co-operation from inter-governmental departments with regular meetings taking place.

Advisory committee (3/3)

See above.

Community partners (2/3)

Regular engagement takes place through the advisory committee and all suggestions are considered but CapeNature makes the final management decision.

Commercial tourism (3/3)

Regular liaison is taking place with the commercial tourism sector through the advisory committee and good co-operation exists.

Performance evaluation system (3/3)

CapeNature has developed an MPA and island audit that will soon be implemented and undertaken on a regular basis. This is the first time that the islands have been included into the state of MPA assessment given their relationship to the marine environment and their need for support and a raised profile amongst decision makers.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

Upgrading of all visitor facilities on the island is currently underway through support from the DPW. This will bring all facilities to a high standard.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

Biodiversity on the island is well managed and this includes the removal of rogue seals that kill and feed on the Cape gannets. Better protection is needed for the intertidal and subtidal zones around the island.

Heritage condition assessment (2/3)

All known heritage assets are well managed and maintained. Further work is currently underway to determine if further heritage assets exist.

Protection systems (2/3)

Controlled access to the island facilitates law enforcement; however community members fish illegally for west coast rock lobster along the harbor walls and walk across the island disturbing the seabirds. Support from DAFF is required to deal with this issue.

Economic and social benefit assessment (3/3)

Bird Island is a major tourist draw card for Lamberts Bay with high visitors viewing the Cape gannet colony. This draw card supports further tourism related business within the town of Lamberts Bay.

3.9 Dassen Island Nature Reserve

3.9.1 Overview

DESCRIPTION

Dassen Island is South Africa's second largest coastal island (273 hectares) and lies 9 km from the mainland between Saldanha Bay and Cape Town. This island reaches 19.2 m above sea level at its highest point, and is generally flat or gently sloping, with extensive sandy areas and a few patches of exposed rock. It is richly covered with vegetation in winter. Several buildings occur in the northeast as does a large manned lighthouse in the southeast. Owing to its proximity to the mainland, comparative isolation and suitable cover the island offers sanctuary to a variety of land and seabirds. The most important resident is the African penguin. Dassen Island also holds up to 4.6% of the global population of the African black oystercatcher; the largest island population in South Africa. Among others, the island also supports healthy breeding populations of crowned cormorant, Cape cormorant, as well as ruddy turnstones and other migratory waders during summer. The bank cormorant, which used to breed in large numbers, has decreased dramatically over the last five years.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

The current available budget for the effective management of Dassen Island is insufficient and this results in too few staff being employed to assist with the operational management of the island. The fact that Transnet is unwilling to supply electricity to CapeNature via their cable running from the lighthouse is greatly increasing management costs and this needs urgent resolution. As a result of this refusal to supply electricity, additional boat trips are needed to transport fuel to the island which results in increased pollution as well as placing immense pressure on the current staff availability. The current patrol vessel is also inadequate for this task. An additional and larger vessel will need to be purchased should this issue not be resolved. However, if this issue is resolved, power generation will be cheaper and more eco-friendly for the island and will greatly reduce operational costs of management.

The current lack of suitable equipment and sufficient staff make the patrolling and enforcement of the surrounding waters impossible. DAFF support is needed to address this and increased budgets are needed to purchase the required equipment and employ adequate numbers of personnel.

Priority actions: Dassen Island

- The inter-departmental issue regarding the provision of electricity by Transnet to CapeNature needs resolution.
- The current budget needs to be reviewed. It must take into account the rate of inflation and the need to employ additional staff and an additional vessel that can adequately handle the heavy loads of equipment needed for the island.
- Review of the current boundary of the island is needed and should follow clearly defined map co-ordinates. The island and surrounding waters should be considered as a MPA and in accordance to the NPAES.
- DAFF support is needed to effectively patrol the waters surrounding the island and ensure effective compliance.

3.9.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

Dassen Island as well as the surrounding marine area 500m seaward of the island is proclaimed as a provincial nature reserve.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

The Nature Conservation Ordinance of the Western Cape is in place on the island, but DAFF should be enforcing the 500m boundary around the island as CapeNature has no capacity to implement this.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

The island's terrestrial boundary is well known but the 500m marine boundary around the island is not well known and there are regular breaches during the peak holiday seasons. The re-alignment of the seaward boundaries to follow GPS co-ordinates would alleviate this problem. Dassen Island management staff needs to provide a rationale document to DEA: O&C for this to take place.

Biodiversity resource inventory (2.5/3)

The biodiversity of the island is well known but further work is needed to understand the biodiversity of the intertidal and subtidal zone.

Heritage resource inventory (2/3)

CapeNature is working with SAHRA to undertake more detailed surveys of the island that will raise the heritage understanding.

PLANNING

Protected area design (2/3)

The current status of the island only protects the breeding grounds of the seabirds but does not protect the feeding grounds of these threatened and endangered species and consideration should be given to proclaiming an MPA around the island to allow for this. Dassen Island falls within one of the priority areas identified by the SANBI offshore programme for an offshore MPA.

Strategic management plan (2.5/3)

The management plan for the island is up to date, has been signed off by the CEO of CapeNature and is being implemented.

Conservation development framework (3/3)

The conservation development framework is incorporated into the protected area management plan.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

Commercial fisheries operating within the area generate pollution in the form of plastic and fishing lines as well as nets that get washed up on the island and are a threat to seabirds. Support is needed from DAFF to control this, as the island has no marine capacity.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (3/3)

Good communication and co-operation exists with DEA and DAFF to ensure proper and permitted monitoring and research is taking place on the island. CapeNature's Scientific Services undertakes regular monitoring of the bird species on the island and this information is incorporated into management planning.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

Current human capacity for the island is generally sufficient however support is needed in the provision of skippers to run supplies to the island.

Current budget (1/3)

Annual budgets for the operational management of the island have been diminishing while costs have been increasing and are totally insufficient for effective management. Budgets do not take into account the replacement and maintenance costs of capital items and infrastructure.

Security of current budget (3/3)

The budget is secure but as mentioned above is decreasing and does not consider the high rate of inflation.

Income (2/3)

The island does not generate an income other than occasional fees from filming. These fees go to the CapeNature central budget.

Law enforcement (2/3)

Law enforcement on the island is usually not a problem, but illegal landings by visitors do take place on occasion and particularly during the peak summer holiday season. DAFF needs to provide support in enforcing the 500m boundary zone around the island.

PROCESS**Annual plan of operation (3/3)**

An approved APO is in existence and is aligned to the management plan and is implemented in accordance to the available budget.

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

Management of biodiversity is taking place within the constraints of available budget and is largely supported by external partnerships. If these partnerships were to fall away, then biodiversity management targets would not be achieved.

Heritage resource management (2/3)

All heritage assets are being managed in accordance to the requirements of the management plan.

Human resources management (3/3)

The current staff component is highly motivated but all operational targets cannot be achieved due to insufficient capacity. Additional training in MPA management is needed for island personnel.

Administrative systems (2/3)

Purchasing processes are problematic and tedious due to PFMA requirements. Suppliers need to register on the Western Cape database and many do not wish to do this. The procurement process fails to recognise the isolated location of Dassen Island.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

A suitable boat with four-stroke engines (2 x 150hp) is required to ferry supplies to the island. Although initial capital costs are expensive, this will save money in the future as repeated trips have to be undertaken with the smaller boat that is currently available. Of concern is the unwillingness of the port authority to supply electricity to island operational infrastructure. This was provided for in the past and CapeNature is willing to pay for this provision. The dispute with the port authority needs rapid resolution as this is increasing the operational costs for CapeNature and is increasing the number of trips that need to be undertaken to the island to provide diesel.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2.5/3)

Scheduled maintenance of operational infrastructure is taking place with the support of the DPW but this work is often undertaken to a poor quality which increases overall costs of the intervention.

Education and awareness programme (2/3)

Limited education and awareness programmes are taking place given the isolated nature of the island, but these are dealt with on request. There is a good education programme in place with UCT that holds annual trips to the island.

Neighbours (2/3)

There is, in most cases good inter-governmental relationships apart from the one mentioned above with the port authority allowing the provision of electricity to CapeNature infrastructure. A good representative advisory forum exists and meetings are held on a regular basis. Community and tourism representatives are pushing for access to the island for tourism purposes.

Advisory committee (2/3)

See above.

Community partners (2/3)

See above.

Commercial tourism (3/3)

See above.

Performance evaluation system (3/3)

CapeNature has developed a MPA and island audit that will soon be implemented and undertaken on a regular basis. This is the first time that the islands have been included into the state of MPA assessment given their relationship to the marine environment and their need for support and a raised profile amongst decision makers.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

No public visitation is allowed on the island and only permitted film crews and researchers visit the island. Facilities for these groups are adequate.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

Ecological and biodiversity management targets are largely met within the constraints of budget and are monitored through the CapeNature ecological matrix.

Heritage condition assessment (3/3)

All heritage assets that are known are managed in accordance to the management plan requirements. Further research is currently taking place to determine if additional assets exist.

Protection systems (2/3)

The limited staff capacity on the island make controlling illegal landings during the summer peak holiday season difficult. This however is for a limited period only and generally access is well controlled.

Economic and social benefit assessment (3/3)

Although the island does not generate a direct income, it is extremely important as a nursery ground for the West Coast rock lobster and 80% of the annual South African West Coast rock lobster catch is taken within close proximity to Dassen Island.

3.10 Dyer Island Nature Reserve

3.10.1 Overview

DESCRIPTION

Dyer Island (20 hectares) is one of two low-lying islands situated 4.7 km southeast of Danger Point; the nearest harbour is at Kleinbaai/Franskraal, just south of Gansbaai. The coastline is rugged with some low rocky areas spreading inland. This flat, low-lying island does not exceed 9 m above sea level and it is covered by a pebble surface with little sand. On the south-eastern portion of the island are several buildings that house the island staff, boats and stores. The island is a breeding site for a number of seabird species including Leach's storm petrel, African penguins. Many other species breed on this island, including large numbers of Cape cormorant and small numbers of white-breasted, bank and crowned cormorant. Several large colonies of Hartlaub's Gull and Swift Tern breed at the island. Sandwich, common, Arctic and Antarctic terns also utilize the island. The island is well-known for its great white shark population and Southern right whales which migrate past the island annually.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

Although an annual budget is supplied, this budget is inadequate. A realistic budget needs to be drawn up to effectively manage the island and must be submitted to CapeNature and DEA: O&C. The annual budget is decreasing while expenses are increasing. An option exists of using a percentage of funds generated from the shark cage-diving operators through setting up a conservation levy for the islands. Insufficient budgets also mean that there is a lack of staff capacity for the island.

Dyer Island has no allocated staff and these are borrowed from the Walker Bay CapeNature office. Lack of personnel capacity means that the enforcing of the 500m zone around the island is impossible. Given the high number of great white shark cage-diving operators and the fact that the island contains critical breeding populations of endangered species, personnel capacity should be seen as a priority and as such budgets should be provided to allow this.

Given the endangered status of the African penguin and other seabirds that are using the island for breeding purposes, there is a need to expand the conservation footprint around the island so that it includes the foraging grounds of the seabirds. Abalone poaching is also taking place within this zone and little or no support is given from DAFF to resolve this issue.

Priority actions: Dyer Island

- A full budget needs review is needed that will consider the risk of current inflation, the high maintenance costs of island infrastructure, the need for increased staff capacity and the need to properly protect the critically endangered African penguin.
- Further research and monitoring work is needed to understand the biodiversity of the intertidal and subtidal zone.

3.10.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

Dyer Island is proclaimed as a provincial nature reserve with a 500m boundary around the island.

Protected area regulation (3/3)

The Nature Conservation Ordinance of the Western Cape is in place on the island, but DAFF should be enforcing the 500m contour around the island, as CapeNature has no capacity to implement this.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

The island boundary is well known but the 500m marine boundary around the island is not well known and there are regular breaches that peak during the summer and main holiday seasons. The re-alignment of the seaward boundaries to follow GPS co-ordinates would alleviate this problem. CapeNature need to provide a rationale document to DEA: O&C for this to take place.

Biodiversity resource inventory (3/3)

The biodiversity of the island is well known but further work is needed to understand the biodiversity of the intertidal and subtidal zone.

Heritage resource inventory (3/3)

CapeNature is working with SAHRA to undertake more detailed surveys of the island that will raise the heritage understanding.

PLANNING**Protected area design (2/3)**

Given the endangered status of the African penguin and other seabirds that are using the island for breeding purposes, there is a need to expand the conservation footprint around the island so that it includes the foraging grounds of the seabirds. This will need to be proclaimed as an MPA. Plans are underway to proclaim the area as a special nature reserve as a result of the endangered species present. Issues of jurisdiction occur though as CapeNature is the managing authority but DEA and DAFF issue the permits for external operators to work within the 500m boundary.

Strategic management plan (2.5/3)

The management plan for the island is up to date and has been signed off by the CEO of CapeNature and is being implemented.

Conservation development framework (3/3)

The conservation development framework is incorporated into the protected area management plan.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

Commercial fisheries operating within the area may have a negative impact on the seabirds through competition with the seabirds' food sources. Research is currently underway to better understand this challenge. Pollution and discards are also a problem. CapeNature has no jurisdiction over the great white shark cage-diving permits that are issued and this needs resolution. CapeNature needs to be consulted in the issuing of all permits within the 500m zone around the island. Illegal abalone poaching is also negatively impacting biodiversity around the island and greater support is needed from DAFF to address this. Kelp harvesting is also taking place within the 500m zone and permits for this are issued by DAFF without consultation with CapeNature.

INPUTS**Research and monitoring programme (3/3)**

CapeNature undertakes regular monitoring and research in accordance to the ecological matrix. Support is also given through external partnerships and through DEA: O&C. CapeNature is not always consulted when permits for research projects within the 500m zone are issued by DEA and DAFF and this needs rectifying by the relevant authorities.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

Insufficient budgets mean that there is a lack of staff capacity for the island. Dyer Island has no allocated staff and these are shared from the Walker Bay CapeNature office. Lack of personnel capacity means that enforcing of the 500m zone around the island is impossible. Given the high number of great white shark cage-diving operators and the fact that the island contains critical breeding populations of endangered species, personnel capacity should be seen as a priority and as such budgets should be provided to allow this. Staff need skills to be able to operate and skipper at sea.

Current budget (1/3)

The current budget is inadequate for effective operational management and to employ sufficient staff. Monitoring and research required on the island is largely funded from outside sources and without this support this critical component of work would not happen.

Security of current budget (3/3)

Although an annual budget is secured, this budget is inadequate. A realistic budget needs to be drawn up to effectively manage the island and submitted to CapeNature and DEA: O&C. The annual budget is decreasing while expenses are increasing. An option exists of using a percentage of funds generated from the shark cage-diving operators through setting up a conservation levy for the islands.

Income (N/A)

No direct income is generated by Dyer Island; however the waters in close proximity attract large numbers of great white sharks. As a result of this, there are numerous shark cage-diving operations that generate large revenues per annum. A levy from these operations should be returned to CapeNature and ring-fenced for island operational management.

Law enforcement (1/3)

Without adequate staff, the enforcement of the 500m zone around the island is impossible. Abalone poaching is taking place within this zone and little or no support is given from DAFF to resolve this issue.

PROCESS**Annual plan of operation (2/3)**

An APO exists that is linked to the objectives of the management plan and within the constraints of the available budget.

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

Biodiversity management is partly implemented due to lack of sufficient funds and staffing. Actions and activities are being undertaken within the availability of budgets and staffing.

Heritage resource management (2/3)

All heritage assets are being managed in accordance to the management plan.

Human resources management (2/3)

Staff motivation is high from current CapeNature Walker Bay supporting staff; though there is a feeling that additional duties are expected from them due to no dedicated staff being allocated for the island. Staff have to spend long periods away from home and family in order to undertake duties on the island and this does have a demoralising effect.

Administrative systems (2/3)

Purchasing processes are problematic and tedious due to PFMA requirements. Suppliers need to register on the Western Cape database and many do not wish to do this.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

A small boat to operate around the island within the 500m zone is needed and minor operational equipment is in need of replacement. All research equipment is sponsored. There is a need to reduce the dependency of using diesel on the island and this can be supported through provision of solar panels.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

There are issues of high maintenance costs for all of the equipment on the island due to proximity to the sea and in terms of getting maintenance staff on the island. The budget does not consider these costs or the costs of replacement of capital equipment.

Education and awareness programme (2/3)

The CapeNature community conservation officer based in Hermanus is leading effective awareness and education programmes with a particular focus on the plight of the African penguin.

Neighbours (3/3)

Regular contact is taking place between DEA, DAFF, SANCCOB and the Dyer Island Conservation Trust. MoUs are in place with these agencies, though there is a specific need to get a dedicated MoU in place with DAFF to address law enforcement issues.

Advisory committee (1/3)

As part of the updating of the management plan, stakeholder meetings were held and nominations were asked for to develop an advisory committee. The finalisation of the nomination process is now underway.

Community partners (1/3)

As above.

Commercial tourism (1/3)

Contact with commercial tourism operators is confined to regulatory matters and as a result of there being insufficient staff capacity. Given the high number of cage-diving operators working within the waters around Dyer Island, support should be given to island management staff to improve this situation.

Performance evaluation system (3/3)

CapeNature has developed an MPA and island audit that will soon be implemented and undertaken on a regular basis. This is the first time that the islands have been included into the state of MPA assessment given their relationship to the marine environment and their need for support and a raised profile amongst decision makers.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (3/3)**

No public visitation is allowed on the island and only permitted film crews and researchers visit the island. Facilities for these groups are adequate.

Ecological condition assessment (3/3)

Biodiversity assets are being managed in accordance to the management plan and the ecological matrix and a dedicated management plan has been developed at a national level for the African penguin. However, as previously mentioned, an expanded and proclaimed MPA around the island is needed to protect seabird feeding grounds. Kelp harvesting is also taking place within the 500m zone and permits for this are issued by DAFF with no consultation with CapeNature.

Heritage condition assessment (2/3)

All heritage assets are being managed in accordance to the stipulations of the management plan.

Protection systems (2/3)

Access to the 500m zone around the island is uncontrolled due to insufficient staff capacity and the issuing of cage-dive operator and kelp harvesting permits by DEA and DAFF and without consultation with CapeNature.

Economic and social benefit assessment (3/3)

The waters around Dyer Island bring huge local, regional and national tourism benefits and employment due to the numerous great white shark cage-diving operations.

CHAPTER 4

EASTERN CAPE PARKS AND TOURISM AGENCY

4.1 Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency Overview

1: CONTEXT	VALUE	Amathole	Dwesa-Cwebe	Hluleka	Pondoland
1.1. Legal status	3	3	3	3	3
1.2. Protected area regulations	3	1	2	2	2
1.3. Boundary demarcation	3	1	2	2	1
1.4. Biodiversity resource inventory	3	1	1	2	2
1.5. Heritage resource inventory	3	1	2	0	2
Subtotal	15	7 (47%)	10 (67%)	9(60%)	10 (67%)
2: PLANNING	VALUE	Amathole	Dwesa-Cwebe	Hluleka	Pondoland
2.1. Protected area design	3	3	3	2	3
2.2. Strategic management plan	3	1	0	0	2.5
2.3. Conservation development framework	3	1	1	N/A	2
2.4. Land and water use planning outside PA	3	1	2	3	2
Supplementary items	5	3	4	2	5
Subtotal	17	9 (53%)	10 (59%)	7/14 (50%)	14.5 (85%)
3: INPUTS	VALUE	Amathole	Dwesa-Cwebe	Hluleka	Pondoland
3.1. Research and monitoring programme	3	1	3	1	1.5
3.2. Human resource capacity	3	2	1	1	1
3.3. Current budget	3	2	1	2	1
3.4. Security of budget	3	3	3	3	3
3.5. Income	3	N/A	2	2	N/A
3.5. Law enforcement	3	2	1	2	1
Subtotal	18	10/15 (67%)	11 (61%)	11 (61%)	7.5/15 (50%)
4: PROCESS	VALUE	Amathole	Dwesa-Cwebe	Hluleka	Pondoland
4.1. Annual plan of operation	3	1	1	2	3
4.2. Biodiversity resource management	3	2	2	2	2

4.3. Heritage resource management	3	0	2	1	2
4.4. Human resource management	3	3	2	2	2
4.5. Administrative systems	3	2	2	2	2
4.6. Operational equipment and infrastructure	3	3	2	2	2
4.7. Maintenance of equipment & infrastructure	3	3	2	2	2
4.8. Education and awareness programme	3	0	1	3	3
4.9. Neighbours	3	2	2	3	2
4.10. Advisory committee/ Forum	3	0	2	2	2
4.11. Community partners	3	2	2	2	2
4.12. Commercial tourism	3	N/A	2	2	1
4.13. Performance evaluation system	3	2	1	2	2
Supplementary items	3	3	2	0	3
Subtotal	42	23/39 (59%)	25 (60%)	27 (64%)	30 (71%)
5: OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES	VALUE	Amathole	Dwesa-Cwebe	Hluleka	Pondoland
5.1. Visitor facilities	3	2	2	2	2
5.2. Ecological condition assessment	3	2	2	2	2
5.3. Heritage condition assessment	3	1	3	1	2
5.4. Protection systems	3	1	2	2	2
5.5. Economic and social benefit assessment	3	1	0	2	2
Supplementary items	2	1	1	2	2
Subtotal	17	8 (50%)	10 (69%)	11(69%)	12 (71%)
Total 2013 Score	109/109	57/103	66/109	65/106	74/106
Total 2013 (%)	100%	55%	61%	61%	70%

4.2 Amathole MPA

4.2.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Amathole MPA is made up from three areas, namely the Gxulu, Gonubie and Kei and which collectively are known as the Amathole MPA. It is the newest of South Africa's coastal MPAs and was declared in 2011 for the purpose of protecting marine biodiversity in the region by providing a sanctuary for species impacted by boat-based activities and to provide a benchmark for scientific research and monitoring.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

Given that this is a newly proclaimed MPA most of the management implementation will only take place during the 2013/2014 financial year. However, given that the MPA is supported by the local ski-boat fishing clubs and that ECPTA has already made considerable effort in appointing personnel and purchasing equipment, management should be effective within a short time period. The development of an MPA management plan must be made a priority as this will clearly guide operational needs and priorities and will enable the development of an annual plan of operations that is closely linked to the available budget.

Priority actions: Amathole MPA

- A management plan for the MPA needs to be drawn up and signed off and this must be followed by the development of a budget linked to an annual plan of operations.
- Newly appointed personnel will need to undergo MPA management related training.
- Little is known about the biodiversity features of the MPA and a comprehensive research and monitoring programme will need to be initiated. There is a lack of specialised equipment to do offshore research and monitoring and a patrol boat and other equipment will need to be purchased.
- A stakeholder forum that includes municipalities will need to be developed. The Qunu section needs focused attention.
- Abalone ranching within the MPA could be a threat if not implemented in an appropriate way and careful consideration will have to be given prior to allowing this to happen.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

4.2.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The MPA comprises three areas, namely the Gxulu, Gonubie and Kei and which collectively are known as the Amathole MPA. These areas were originally proposed by local ski-boat fishermen and proclaimed as closed areas under the Sea Fisheries Act of 1988. These three areas were declared an MPA under Section 43 of the MLRA, during 2011. Currently the MPA only includes sea areas (not estuaries). Shore-based angling, spearfishing and bait collecting activities are still allowed although this is more strictly controlled as the shoreline up to the high water mark falls within the MPA.

Protected area regulations (1/3)

The MPA prohibits boat-based activities. Signage exists at all key points but more signage is needed to ensure locals are aware of the MPA boundaries. As of 1 April 2013, the MPA became operational and regulations began to be enforced.

Boundary demarcation (1/3)

Signage is at place at all launch points and other key areas. Meetings having been held with the local ski-boat clubs who initially proposed the MPA and are therefore supportive.

Biodiversity resource inventory (1/3)

Some baseline information is known but a full and continued monitoring programme is needed to expand on this information. ECPTA Scientific Services will be implementing a tag and release monitoring programme in the 2013/2014 financial year.

Heritage resource inventory (1/3)

A number of shipwrecks are known from the area, but details of these are still largely unknown and will need to be followed up with SAHRA.

PLANNING

Protected area design (3/3)

The MPA has been carefully designed to maximise protection for priority linefish species.

Strategic management plan (1/3)

A strategic management plan was drafted in late 2012 and needs finalisation and sign off.

Conservation development framework (1/3)

No conservation development framework has been developed but a zonation plan is in place.

Land and water use planning (1/3)

Given the recent implementation of management of this MPA, engaging with the Great Kei Municipality still needs to take place and MPA management staff have noted this as a priority.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (1/3)

A research and monitoring programme will be finalised and implemented during the 2013/2014 financial year.

Human resource capacity (2/3)

An MPA manager and two field rangers have been appointed since April 2013 to manage the MPA and this number is sufficient to meet present requirements.

Current budget (2/3)

The budget for the management of the MPA is secure, however a full review of actual needs will be required once full operational requirements are determined.

Security of current budget (3/3)

The budget is secure as a result of an open-ended MoU that is in place between DEA: O&C and ECPTA. The budget will need to be closely monitored to determine if it is keeping pace with the rate of inflation and considers the replacement of capital costs.

Income (N/A)

No income is generated by the MPA.

Law enforcement (2/3)

Currently enforcement of the regulations is difficult due to the need for a dedicated patrol boat. This boat has been ordered and in the meantime the patrol boat from Hluleka MPA has been borrowed to enable patrols.

PROCESS**Annual plan of operation (1/3)**

An APO needs to be developed that incorporates the recent appointment of personnel and the provision of equipment to effect MPA operational management.

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

Management needs are known but are not yet fully implemented. Greater focus on the management of biodiversity assets can now be made given the appointment of dedicated personnel.

Heritage resource management (0/3)

Minimal management is needed for the shipwrecks. Further research and support from SAHRA is needed to determine if other assets exist in the MPA.

Human resources management (3/3)

Staff members are highly motivated and look forward to ensuring effective operational management of this new MPA. Field ranger personnel need further capacity development in MPA management.

Administrative systems (2/3)

Current administrative support is adequate for the MPA but this may need re-visiting once the MPA becomes fully operational.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (3/3)

New equipment has been purchased for the MPA and a new patrol boat is awaiting delivery. This will mean that the MPA will be able to become fully operational within the 2013/2014 financial year.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (3/3)

Given that all equipment is new, little maintenance is needed. However a maintenance schedule will need to be drawn up to ensure high maintenance standards are enforced.

Education and awareness programme (0/3)

This is to be developed during the 2013/2014 financial year.

Neighbours (2/3)

All ski-boats clubs within the area are very supportive of the MPA and will assist in informing holidaymakers of the MPA. SAPS is also very supportive, in particular in dealing with abalone poaching.

Advisory committee (0/3)

This will be developed during the 2013/2014 financial year.

Community partners (2/3)

A process needs to be developed to allow formal community participation but good consultation and support was given by the community during the proclamation process of the MPA. Formal processes will be developed during the 2013/2014 financial year.

Commercial tourism (N/A)

No current commercial tourism exists within the MPA boundaries.

Performance evaluation system (2/3)

ECPTA undertakes an annual METT of the terrestrial and marine reserves. A state of MPA assessment will be undertaken every three to five years.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

All visitor facilities are provided through Morgans Bay and Kei Mouth and meet visitor needs. ECPTA does not need to develop specific facilities for the MPA.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

Given the recent proclamation of the MPA, it is still too early to determine if ecological assets are benefitting from the MPA.

Heritage condition assessment (1/3)

Known heritage assets are managed in accordance to legislation, but support from SAHRA is needed to determine full assets in the area and their management requirements.

Protection systems (1/3)

There are 15 launch sites within the boundaries of the MPA and this makes management difficult. However, the local ski-boat clubs are supportive of the MPA and this is limiting breaches in legislation.

Economic and social benefit assessment (1/3)

The MPA is too new to determine if it is benefitting the local economy but it is envisaged that once fisheries stocks recover that these will bring benefits. The proposals of abalone ranching within the MPA may also bring socio-economic benefits.

4.3 Dwesa-Cwebe MPA

4.3.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Dwesa-Cwebe MPA is located at the break between the Agulhas and Natal inshore bioregions. The length of the shoreline included in the MPA is 16m and consists of rocky platforms, sandy beaches and the tidal portion of the Bashe River mouth. The MPA extends six nautical miles offshore and includes subtidal rocky reefs and sandy benthos. The MPA is an important area for the conservation of large sparid species and contains spawning areas for the threatened white and red steenbras.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- There was no MPA management plan being implemented.
- There were no MPA specific regulations in place.
- There were no designated FCOs on the staff.
- Staff lacked the basic understanding of MPA theory and the applicable legislation.
- Most staff members lacked basic skills required for operations in MPAs.
- There were no skippers thereby limiting sea-going abilities.
- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme needs to be designed and implemented.
- Interpretative signs for raising awareness about the MPA need to be erected.
- Education programmes and workshops need to be designed and must target the affected communities and resource users.
- There needs to be meaningful engagement with local stakeholders using varied methods according to the community characteristics.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

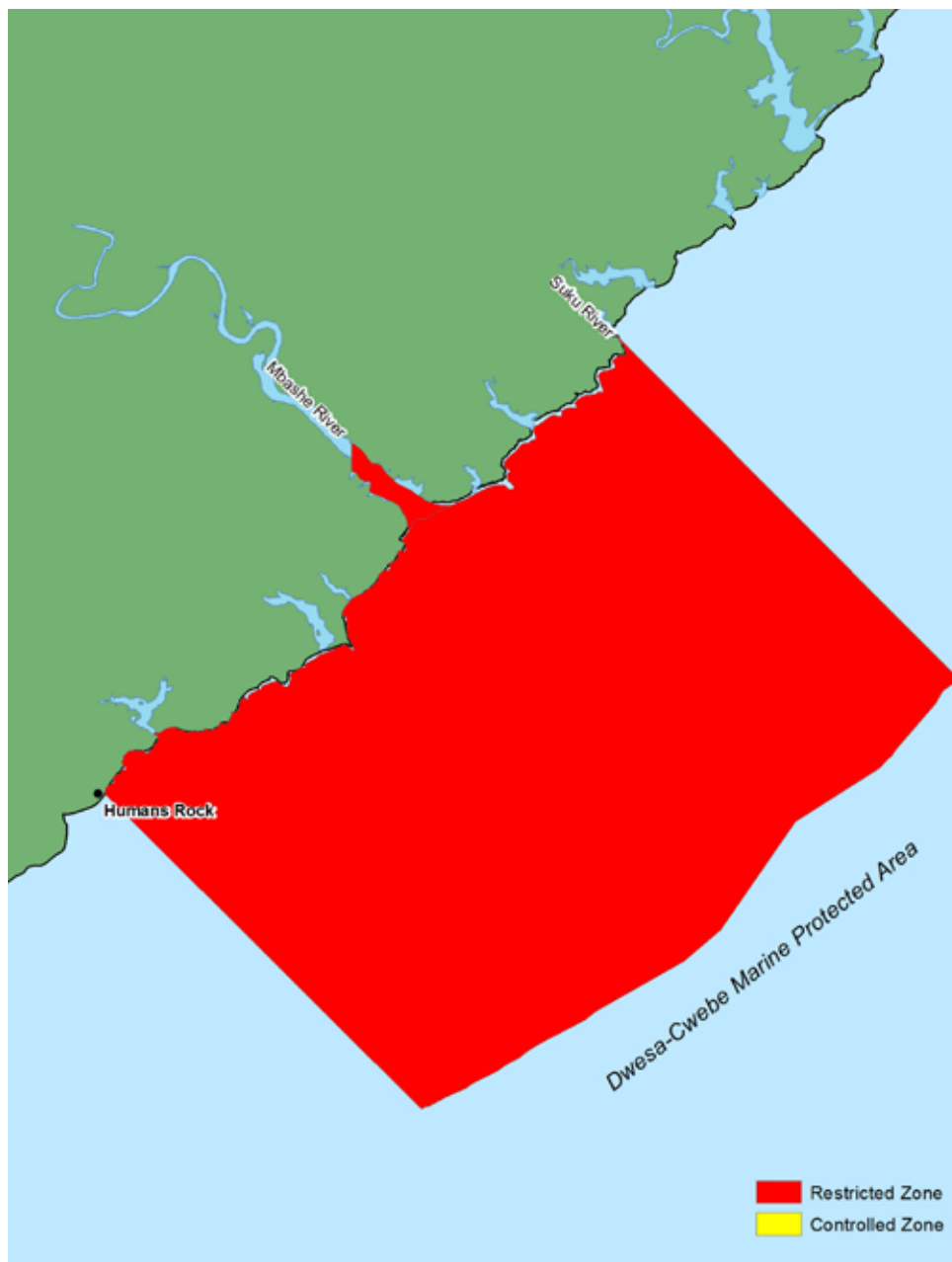
The long-standing submission from neighbouring communities, that are requesting that sections of the MPA are re-opened to allow small-scale/subsistence fishing, needs to be urgently resolved as this is having a negative impact on the overall management effectiveness of the MPA. DEA and DAFF need to finalise a decision on the way forward regarding this issue and need to assist and commit to supporting ECPTA in the daily managing of the MPA given the complex social issues.

Only once the above listed issue has been decided upon can the development of a full management plan with associated annual plan of operation be developed. This management plan will need to review the current budget and identify the actual running costs of the MPA and determine the required amount of personnel that will be needed to ensure implementation of any decision-making around the re-opening issue.

The purchase of vehicles is an absolute priority for current management of the MPA. Currently only one vehicle is available for both the terrestrial and marine sections and this is severely hampering management effectiveness.

Priority actions: Dwesa-Cwebe MPA

- A budget review is needed that lists actual needs and running costs of the MPA and this then needs to be presented to DEA: O&C.
- Personnel need to be appointed to focus directly on MPA management and these personnel need to be equipped so as to meet health and safety requirements.
- The outstanding issue of the request to re-open sections of the MPA to subsistence fishing needs urgent resolution.
- A management plan for this MPA is a priority and will help address the current complex issues related to sectors of the community wanting to have access to fish within the MPA.
- Outstanding issues pertaining to the Dwesa-Cwebe Land Trust need to be urgently resolved as this is having a negative impact on the management of the MPA.
- Capital items, in particular vehicles, need to be purchased.
- MPA personnel need to attend MPA capacity development training.
- Field rangers need to attend environmental legislation and law enforcement training and also undertake a marine ecology course.
- DAFF needs to assist with addressing abalone poaching within the MPA.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

4.3.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The Dwesa-Cwebe MPA was initially proclaimed as a marine reserve in 1989 under the former Transkei Government. Fishing from the shore was allowed in some designated sections of the reserve. The MPA was re-proclaimed in 2000 under the MLRA and declared in its entirety as a no-take zone. No specific regulations have been provided for the MPA.

The local communities and stakeholders were not adequately consulted when the MPA was re-proclaimed under the MLRA as a single no-take zone. Consequently the communities harbor much animosity towards the authorities as they have been denied access to their traditional fishing and invertebrate harvesting areas. In addition tourism activities in the area have been reduced due to the prohibition on fishing.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

Some local community members are continuing to fish within the MPA, ignoring the current MPA regulations and this is leading to conflict. Engagement with communities is in process. The SAPS needs to better understand the marine regulations and support the MPA better when cases are opened at the SAPS.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

Management and communities are fully aware of the boundaries of the MPA, which are demarcated. A minority of community members chooses to ignore these boundaries and continue to fish within the MPA.

Biodiversity resource inventory (1/3)

Coastal monitoring of linefish and invertebrates is taking place and information is available, however the biodiversity in deeper waters is still largely unknown.

Heritage resource inventory (2/3)

Shipwreck sites are known and mapped and research into the cultural resource use and need is currently underway in an effort to better incorporate these needs into the management of the MPA.

PLANNING

Protected area design (3/3)

The MPA design is adequate for sustaining ecological processes and protecting the interior from edge effects. The entire MPA comprises one no-take zone that does not cater for extractive tourism activities and is highly opposed by the local community. Current negotiations are underway with local communities to consider a zoning system that allows preferential access to community fishers.

Strategic management plan (0/3)

No management plan exists for the MPA and ECPTA have identified this as a priority for completion.

Conservation development framework (1/3)

No conservation development framework exists and this must be drawn up in conjunction to the MPA management plan. A tender process has recently been completed to further develop visitor facilities on the terrestrial reserve which will impact on the MPA. External funders are being sourced to aid in creating job opportunities for neighbouring communities that will reduce conflict in the MPA.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

Engagement with the local municipality is taking place and issues of land and water planning are addressed through this forum.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (3/3)

A catch and release, tagging programme is in place and intertidal monitoring is also taking place. Recent socio-economic research was undertaken and completed on the MPA.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

An MPA manager works in conjunction with 12 field rangers who are also responsible for the management of the terrestrial reserve. This means that MPA priorities are difficult to deal with. There is a need for dedicated MPA personnel to be appointed, especially given the current conflict between management authorities and the communities regarding fishing rights. Should the MPA be re-zoned, additional personnel will be needed to ensure adherence to the new zoning plan and regulations.

Current budget (1/3)

The current budget is insufficient for the appointment of MPA personnel and will be totally inadequate to address a re-zoned MPA if it is approved. Additional equipment and personnel will be needed to properly manage a re-zoned MPA. The MPA has a dire need for an additional vehicle and no budget is available for this.

Security of current budget (3/3)

The budget is secure as a result of an open-ended MoU that is in place between DEA: O&C and ECPTA. The budget will need to be closely monitored to determine if it is staying within line of the rate of inflation and considers the replacement of capital costs and a re-zoned MPA.

Income (2/3)

The MPA generates income through accommodation (chalets and camping) at Dwesa, all income generated is collected by ECPTA.

Law enforcement (1/3)

See HR capacity. Given the current conflict status at Dwesa-Cwebe, enforcement is difficult and support is required from DEA: O&C and DAFF to address this situation. Once resolution has been found, enforcement will be easier to address.

PROCESS

Annual plan of operation (1/3)

No APO exists and this should be drawn up as a matter of priority and must be linked to the development and implementation of a management plan for the MPA.

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

Biodiversity protection of the MPA is largely taking place through regular patrolling. However, due to current conflict with local communities around access to marine resources within the MPA, resources are not adequately protected.

Heritage resource management (2/3)

Apart from the current contention regarding the cultural right to fish within the MPA, all other heritage management requirements are being met.

Human resources management (2/3)

Current conflict with neighbouring communities is negatively affecting staff morale. A previous reserve manager was transferred to another reserve and the subsequent manager has also left, the position at Dwesa-Cwebe is now vacant. Dwesa-Cwebe has a high manager staff turnover and this needs to be addressed. It will only be through staff continuity that the current issues at Dwesa-Cwebe can begin to be addressed.

Administrative systems (2/3)

Most administrative requirements for the MPA are adequate, though computer literacy for field staff will aid the capturing of data from patrolling and ease reporting processes.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

There is a need for dedicated 4x4 vehicles to support the MPA (one at Dwesa and one at Cwebe). A boat house is also needed at the launch site near Dwesa Lodge though a tender has been sent out to address this. The current launch site is not ideal as it is tidal dependent.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

A maintenance schedule is in place and is being adhered to.

Education and awareness programme (1/3)

No focused education or awareness programme exists. A programme needs to be developed that will increase the understanding of the importance of the MPA.

Neighbours (2/3)

The Dwesa Land Trust is in place and this looks at addressing both terrestrial protected area and MPA issues. The request by community members to gain fishing rights within MPA boundaries is being looked at by ECPTA and proposals on how to address this issue have been put forward to DEA: O&C and DAFF.

Advisory committee (2/3)

As above.

Community partners (2/3)

As above.

Commercial tourism (2/3)

ECPTA manages the camp and campsite facilities and there is limited co-operation between managers and tourism operators.

Performance evaluation system (1/3)

ECPTA undertakes an annual METT of the terrestrial and marine reserves. State of MPA assessment will be undertaken every three to five years.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

Plans are currently underway to develop further visitor facilities on the terrestrial component of the reserve and tenders have been called for. Current facilities are adequate for current visitor numbers.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

Most ecological processes and biodiversity assets within the MPA are protected. However, the current conflict over community access to fishing rights within the MPA raises concerns from some of the threatened linefish species such as white steenbras which breed in the area.

Heritage condition assessment (3/3)

All known heritage assets are managed in accordance to legislation, while the proposal to allow community fishing as a cultural right within the MPA is under review by DEA: O&C and DAFF.

Protection systems (2/3)

Access to the MPA is controlled through the fencing of terrestrial reserve and entry gates. Some illegal entry is taking place from the shore. Some members of the surrounding communities continue to fish within the MPA as they do not recognise the legitimacy of the MPA. This has caused challenges for enforcement officials charged with protection.

Economic and social benefit assessment (0/3)

Dwesa-Cwebe MPA is critical to protecting threatened linefish species that are important at a national level. However, the local communities believe that with no access to resources within the MPA, their rights and opportunities have been greatly reduced.

4.4 Hluleka MPA

4.4.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Hluleka MPA is situated adjacent to the Hluleka Nature Reserve in the Eastern Cape approximately 45km south west of Port St Johns along the coast. The shoreline of the MPA is 4km long, consisting of rocky shores, sandy beaches and a river mouth, and the MPA extends 6 nautical miles offshore. The whole MPA is a no-take zone.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- There was no MPA management plan being implemented.
- No MPA specific regulations existed.
- There was no permanent reserve manager.
- There were no designated FCOs on the staff.
- Staff lacked the basic understanding of MPA theory and the applicable legislation.
- Most staff members lacked basic skills required for operations in MPAs.
- There were no skippers, thereby limiting sea-going abilities.
- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme needs to be designed and implemented.
- Interpretative signs for raising awareness about the MPA need to be erected.
- Education programmes and workshops need to be designed and must target the affected communities and resource users.
- There needs to be meaningful engagement with local stakeholders using varied methods according to the community characteristics.

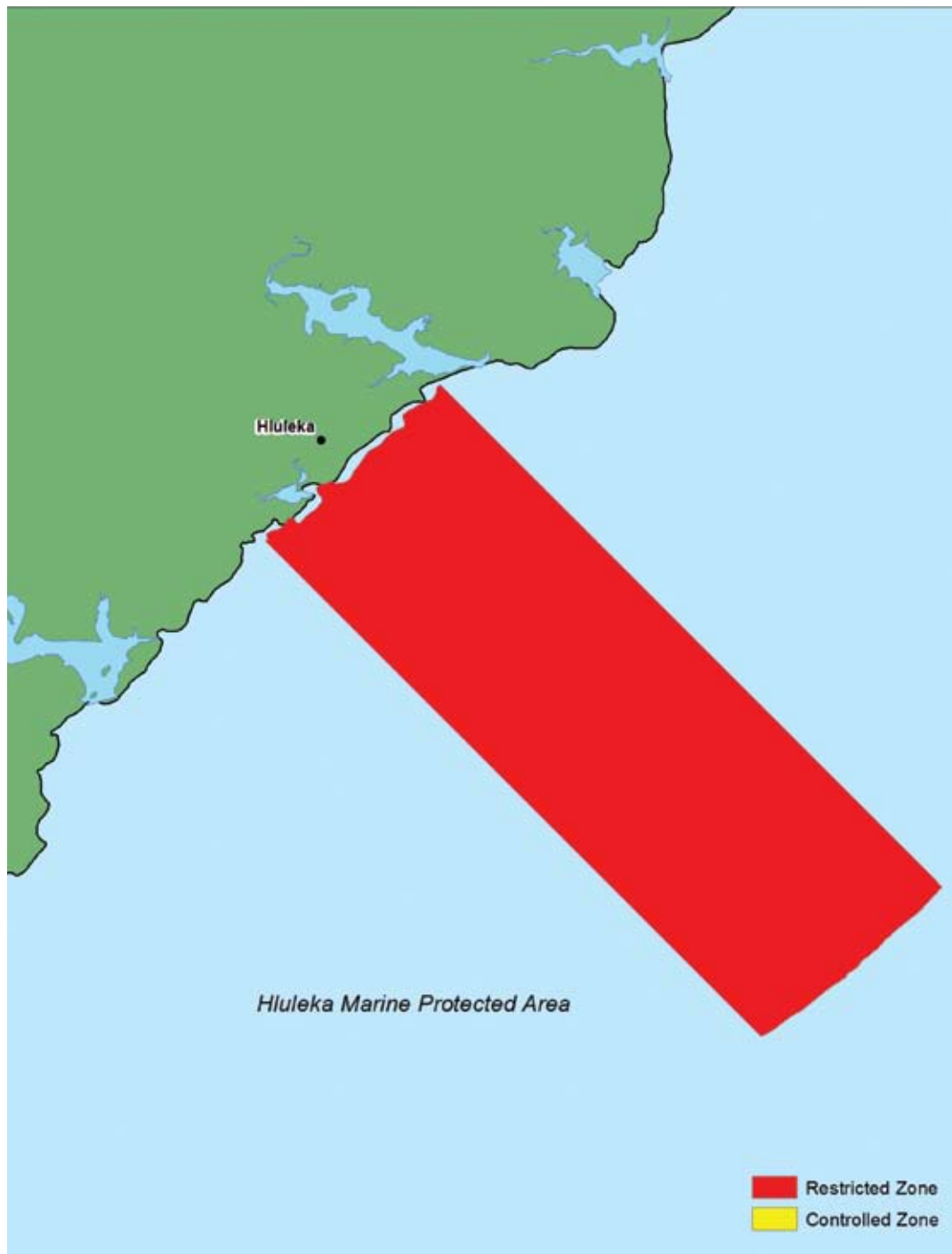
c) SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

Although there has been much improvement in the management of the Hluleka MPA since the last assessment, there are still a number of areas that needed focused attention. The current budget is insufficient to employ adequate numbers of personnel to manage the MPA and to purchase the equipment needed for proper law enforcement. The lack of proper equipment to undertake enforcement duties also means that aspects of the Health and Safety Act are not being adhered to.

The MPA has no management plan and as a result management is largely reactive. The management plan needs to be drawn up and completed as a matter of priority and so that a realistic annual plan of operations may be developed and which also identifies actual equipment and budget needs.

Priority actions: Hluleka MPA

- Draw up and finalise a MPA management plan;
- Identify the actual budget needed to manage the MPA and ensure that this is submitted to DEA: O&C;
- Purchase critical equipment needed for effective law enforcement and to meet health and safety requirements;
- Expand capacity development of PA staff so that they have a better understanding of MPA management and marine ecology. All staff need capacity development in MPA management, both at an introductory level and at a full certificate level. Experienced skippers are needed to undertake boat patrols within the MPA.
- A dedicated 4x4 vehicle is needed by the MPA and a secure boathouse for the patrol boat is needed.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

4.4.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The Hluleka MPA was originally set up under the Transkei Environmental Decree 9 of 1992 and later re-proclaimed under the MLRA in 2000 as a no-take area. There has been some resistance to the no-take status of the MPA from locals. There are no specific regulations for Hluleka.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

There are no specific regulations for Hluleka other than its no-take status.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

Fences ran along the boundaries of the nature reserve up until the shoreline. Signs were placed on the coastal boundaries of the MPA but are continually vandalised and removed. The community is aware of the boundaries of the MPA. As this is an extremely small and narrow MPA it is difficult to tell if you are within the MPA boundaries or not when on a vessel offshore. Beacons could be erected on shore to facilitate this.

Biodiversity resource inventory (2/3)

Coastal linefish and invertebrates are known and information is available, however the biodiversity in deeper waters is largely unknown.

Heritage resource inventory (0/3)

There is little or no information available on heritage assets within the MPA.

PLANNING**Protected area design (2/3)**

Given the small size of the MPA, limited biodiversity is protected however it is unlikely that the MPA could be expanded without the support from neighbouring communities. It is possible that the size of the MPA could be increased with limitations applied to vessel-based users rather than those on the shore. Such an extension would need strong motivation but could greatly enhance offshore marine protection in this area.

Strategic management plan (0/3)

No strategic management plan exists for the MPA. The drawing up of such a plan should be seen as a priority.

Conservation development framework (N/A)

The MPA is designated as a no-take MPA. No conservation development framework is needed.

Land and water use planning (3/3)

Regular meetings are taking place between MPA management and the local municipalities and all land and water use planning issues are addressed at these meetings.

INPUTS**Research and monitoring programme (1/3)**

The Walter Sisulu University is currently undertaking research on mussels and limpets. A detailed monitoring and research programme is needed for Hluleka MPA.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

There are two field rangers dedicated to the management of the MPA and a manager for the Hluleka Nature Reserve and MPA. All staff need capacity development in MPA management, both at an introductory level and at a full certificate level. Experienced skippers are needed to undertake boat patrols within the MPA.

Current budget (2/3)

The budget is inadequate to purchase capital items needed for the MPA and to ensure permanent employment of MPA personnel that will include the provisioning of a MPA conservator post.

Security of current budget (3/3)

The budget is secure as a result of an open-ended MoU that is in place between DEA: O&C and ECPTA. The budget will need to be closely monitored to determine if it is staying within line of the rate of inflation and considers the replacement of capital costs.

Income (2/3)

Revenue is generated for ECPTA through accommodation and entry to the terrestrial reserve.

Law enforcement (2/3)

Field Rangers patrol the MPA daily and there are limited illegal activities taking place with an average of ten incidents per year. Illegal crayfishing and shore-based linefishing account for the majority of cases.

PROCESS**Annual plan of operation (2/3)**

Although no management plan is in place, an APO is in place and has been signed off by the regional manager.

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

Regular patrolling is ensuring the protection of biodiversity assets.

Heritage resource management (1/3)

There is little or no information available on heritage assets within the MPA.

Human resources management (2/3)

Staff morale is moderate to high, though further skills development is needed with a focus on MPA management and skippers experience at sea.

Administrative systems (2/3)

Procurement processes are cumbersome as a result of the PFMA and a lack of support from ECPTA head office.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

There is a lack of a dedicated 4x4 for the MPA, which is needed to launch the patrol boat. A boathouse is in the process of being built.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

A maintenance schedule exists for the patrol boat and maintenance is to a satisfactory standard.

Education and awareness programme (3/3)

Hluleka has an environmental centre and through funding from the Wild Coast Fund there is a community outreach officer available who regularly leads education and awareness programmes with local schools.

Neighbours (3/3)

Regular meetings are held between MPA management and the headman and chiefs of the area. This results in a positive relationship between communities and the MPA.

Advisory committee (2/3)

See above.

Community partners (2/3)

See above.

Commercial tourism (2/3)

Engagement with commercial tourism takes place through the local tourism forum. The Port St Johns hiking trail and the Imana Wild Ride run through the MPA along the coastline.

Performance evaluation system (2/3)

ECPTA undertakes an annual METT of the terrestrial and marine reserves. State of MPA assessment will be undertaken every three to five years.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES

Visitor facilities (2/3)

The visitor facilities at Hluleka have been recently upgraded and final approval is pending for the building of an additional five units of accommodation.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

Biodiversity assets are being well protected through regular patrolling, though limited coastal illegal activities are taking place.

Heritage condition assessment (1/3)

There is little or no information available on heritage assets within the MPA, though it is expected that these assets are not being degraded.

Protection systems (2/3)

Boundary beacons and signage in isiXhosa are needed at priority locations. Regular patrolling is limiting illegal access.

Economic and social benefit assessment (2/3)

The MPA does employ some staff and a Working for the Coast team and all members are from the surrounding community.

4.5 Pondoland MPA

4.5.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Pondoland MPA consists of 90km of rocky and sandy shoreline between the Mzamba and Mzimvubu Rivers. It extends approximately ten nautical miles offshore to the 1000m isobath and incorporates large subtidal reefs with many endemic species. In addition some of the most pristine estuaries in South Africa are located along this shoreline.

The MPA is situated within the Natal coastal bioregion; however there are elements of both sub-tropical and warm-temperate ecosystems indicating that the environment contained within the MPA is part of a transition zone. The MPA supports a high diversity of marine biota. It is a critical area for the maintenance of many over-exploited linefish species, some of which spawn in the area. It is also important for the recovery and protection of intertidal invertebrates that were previously heavily harvested.

Recreational and commercial boat-based poaching does occur in offshore sections of the MPA, however some sections have not been affected by these activities due to their remoteness and far distance from popular launch sites. Another potential threat to the resources in the MPA is the illegal gill netting in the Mtentu river estuary (a restricted zone) that could escalate. Potential land-based threats include the titanium mining activities between the Mzamba and Sikombe rivers and the proposed realignment of the N2 closer to the coast which would increase accessibility to the MPA.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

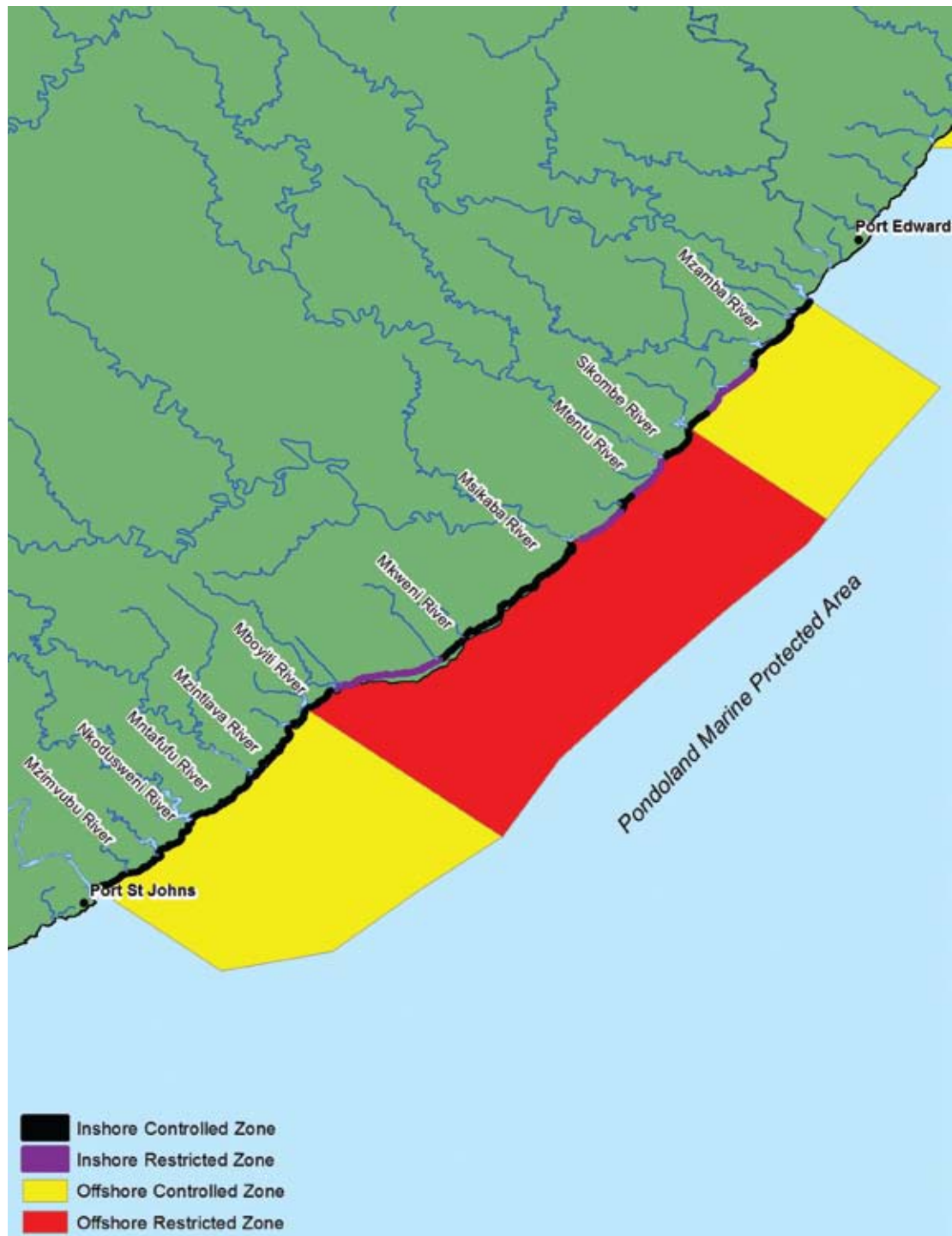
- There were no designated FCOs for the MPA.
- Staff lacked a basic understanding of the applicable legislation.
- Most staff members lacked basic skills required for operations in MPAs.
- There were no skippers thereby limiting sea-going capacity.
- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme needs to be designed and implemented.
- Interpretative signs for raising awareness about the MPA need to be erected.
- Education programmes and workshops need to be designed and must target the affected communities and resource users.
- There needs to be meaningful engagement with local stakeholders using varied methods according to the community characteristics.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency has recently been tasked with managing the entire Pondoland MPA, including the terrestrial areas that extend beyond the Mkambati Nature Reserve boundaries. The budget allocated by DEA: O&C has not been increased sufficiently to effectively manage this expanded area and will place huge strain on ECPTA resources unless this is properly addressed. Additional staff and equipment is also needed to manage this extended area and support will be needed to properly engage with all neighbours and those impacted by the MPA, with a particular focus around Port St Johns. Funding will be needed to ensure that the management plan is implemented. Focused attention must also be given to finding realistic alternative livelihoods for communities impacted by the MPA in order to reduce pressure on the limited inshore resources.

Priority actions: Pondoland MPA

- A full budget review is needed and the budget needs to be increased to the amount realistically needed to manage the full MPA.
- Sufficient personnel need to be appointed to manage the additional areas now falling under the responsibilities of ECPTA. These personnel will need to undergo the necessary MPA management related training.
- Additional vehicles and other equipment will need to be purchased so that the MPA can be effectively managed and that all health and safety requirements will be met.
- An updated research and monitoring programme needs to be developed and implemented for the Pondoland MPA.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

4.5.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The former Mkambati MPA was originally proclaimed in 1991 under South Africa's Sea Fisheries Act (No. 58 of 1973) and included 11.5km of coastline. It later was re-proclaimed under the MLRA in 2000 as an entirely no-take zone. It was then incorporated into the broader Pondoland MPA which was proclaimed in 2004. The MPA consists of zoned restricted (no-take) areas and controlled areas both along the shore and offshore. The shoreline at Mgwegwe was opened to recreational fishing activities due to the popularity of the area with tourists.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

Regulations for fishing, scientific research, scuba diving and the use of vessels in the MPA are provided in the proclamation.

Boundary demarcation (1/3)

The community is largely unaware of the boundaries of the MPA and an awareness programme is needed to address this. Boundary beacons, visible both on land and from the sea and adequate signage in isiXhosa and English is needed.

Biodiversity resource inventory (2/3)

The Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) undertook a preliminary marine biodiversity assessment prior to the MPA being proclaimed. Subsequently ORI has been undertaking regular monitoring and tagging of offshore reef fish populations in the MPA. Although this is providing good data, a better understanding of marine biodiversity is needed, particularly in deep water habitats.

Heritage resource inventory (2/3)

Some information is available on shipwrecks, archaeological sites and fossil beds within the MPA but further detail is needed. Support from SAHRA is needed to properly determine heritage sites within the MPA.

PLANNING

Protected area design (3/3)

The large size of the MPA meets conservation objectives.

The offshore component of the MPA is divided into three zones:

- Controlled Zone 1 in the north (offshore area between the Mzamba and Sikombe Rivers)
- Central restricted zone (offshore area between the Sikombe and Mboyti Rivers), and
- Controlled Zone 2 in the south (offshore area between the Mboyti and Mzimvubu Rivers).

The offshore controlled zones created a buffer around the large central restricted zone. The inshore component consists of four restricted zones that include the intertidal zone and coastal waters to a depth of 10m. Critical areas for the maintenance of the ecological integrity of the MPA were incorporated in the MPA but not all are afforded extra protection within restricted zones.

Strategic management plan (2.5/3)

A well laid out, detailed and up to date management plan exists for this MPA and is awaiting approval and sign off from DEA: O&C.

Conservation development framework (2/3)

A public private partnership has been signed and is due for implementation shortly. The conservation development framework has been signed off by the MEC.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

The MPA has to engage with three municipalities regarding land and water use planning issues. Port St Johns Municipality creates some problems due to developments in Port St Johns. The MPA is reflected on spatial development frameworks and integrated development plans.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (1.5/3)

Offshore reef fish monitoring is being undertaken by the ORI. ECPTA has identified other research and monitoring priorities but implementation is dependent on the availability of budget. Long-term funding for the reef fish monitoring programme is needed.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

There are not enough MPA dedicated staff. Given the large size, difficult access and rugged terrain, a team of dedicated personnel is needed for this MPA. It is suggested that three sections are identified within the MPA and that a team is based at each of these. The current staff component, which is based at the Mkambati Nature Reserve, now has added responsibilities in the MPA. This situation is diluting management effectiveness of the terrestrial reserve and is not sustainable. This could be improved through working more closely with other government departments in the areas such as DAFF and the SAPS. The current Mkambati Nature Reserve manager is well qualified in MPA management and supports his staff where possible. However, the remaining field ranger force on the terrestrial reserve needs to attend an introductory course in MPA management or refresher course.

Current budget (1/3)

The current budget provided by DEA: O&C is inadequate to effectively manage the extended MPA. Adequate funds are needed to support employment of staff, purchasing of vehicles and equipment and develop satellite offices. The Working for the Coast programme and the Wild Coast Fund is assisting with additional manpower and funding where possible, but neither of these sources are long-term solutions.

Security of current budget (3/3)

The budget is secure as a result of an open-ended MoU that is in place between DEA: O&C and ECPTA. The budget will need to be closely monitored to determine if it is staying within line of the rate of inflation and considers the replacement of capital costs.

Income (N/A)

The MPA does not currently generate a direct income. However, there are a number of tourism ventures in the neighbouring area that benefit from the MPA through commercial tourism such as sardine diving, helicopter flights, coastal hiking trails, etc. The helicopter flights are considered to be illegal as there is currently no agreement between ECPTA and the tour operators. Consideration could be given to initiating a levy on such activities which could benefit MPA management.

Law enforcement (1/3)

Recreational and commercial boat-based poaching does occur in offshore sections of the MPA, however some sections have not been affected by these activities due to their remoteness and distance from popular launch sites. Another potential threat to the resources in the MPA is the gill netting in the Mtentu river estuary. Patrolling is taking place but with the limited staff capacity this is insufficient to be properly effective given the large size and area to be covered. Only one vehicle is available to cover the entire area. Lack of overtime budget and poor roads make travel difficult. A patrol vessel and qualified skipper are now based at Mkambati and limited sea patrols are being undertaken although launching is extremely weather dependent.

PROCESS

Annual plan of operation (3/3)

An annual plan of operations exists and is aligned to available budget. The regional manager has signed this off.

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

Biodiversity management is extremely difficult given the limited budget and number of staff on the MPA. Unless the MPA receives additional funding to employ dedicated personnel, it will be difficult to meet management objectives.

Heritage resource management (2/3)

Management of heritage assets is taking place in accordance to the management plan and within capacity constraints. It is considered a low priority.

Human resources management (2/3)

Staff from the Mkambati Nature Reserve who currently patrol the MPA are in need of MPA management training and marine ecology training.

Administrative systems (2/3)

There is insufficient budget available to employ administrative support for the MPA. Procurement requirements through ECPTA and the PFMA are complex and takes extended periods of time to comply with. This is further complicated by the very isolated nature of the MPA and lack of service providers.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

There is insufficient equipment to properly manage this MPA. A priority need is for vehicles that can traverse the bad roads and difficult terrain.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

Maintenance is currently limited to servicing of the reserve vehicle and the patrol boat. A proper maintenance schedule with maintenance requirements is needed for the MPA.

Education and awareness programme (3/3)

MPA education and awareness is addressed through the Mkambati Environmental Education and Awareness Forum and a scheduled programme of work is undertaken with neighbouring communities and schools.

Neighbours (2/3)

Good communication and support is given from MPA neighbours and a number of forums exist to ensure regular engagement is undertaken with the variety of stakeholders. These include the Mkambati Land Trust, the Mkambati Environmental Education and Awareness Forum, municipal forums and community development associations.

Advisory committee (2/3)

As above.

Community partners (2/3)

As above.

Commercial tourism (1/3)

This aspect has not previously been dealt with and now with the development of the public-private partnership and the fact that ECPTA now manages the entire MPA better communication and contact should be made with the commercial tour operators and associations.

Performance evaluation system (2/3)

ECPTA undertakes an annual METT of the terrestrial and marine reserves. A state of MPA assessment will be undertaken every three to five years

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

Current visitor facilities and access roads are in poor condition. A public-private partnership has been signed and is due for implementation shortly. This partnership will address visitor needs within the next few years.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

Biodiversity management is extremely difficult given the limited budget and number of staff on the MPA. Unless the MPA receives additional funding to employ dedicated personnel, it will be difficult to meet management objectives. Illegal line fishing and trawling or long-lining is taking place. Minor sand mining is also taking place within the estuaries and along the coastline.

Heritage condition assessment (2/3)

Known heritage assets are being managed in accordance to the management plan and legislation.

Protection systems (2/3)

Given the large size of the MPA, access is difficult to monitor and there is both land- and sea-based illegal access taking place. Land-based access is largely restricted to the periphery of the MPA, while ski-boats and trawlers are accessing the MPA via the sea.

Economic and social benefit assessment (2/3)

The MPA is important in protecting fish stocks that are of national importance. The MPA is providing employment for Working for the Coast teams and the new public-private partnership will create additional employment and bring tourism benefits to the area.

CHAPTER 5 EZEMVELO KWAZULU-NATAL WILDLIFE

5.1 Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Overview

1: CONTEXT	VALUE	Trafalgar	Aliwal Shoal	iSimangaliso
1.1. Legal status	3	3	3	3
1.2. Protected area regulations	3	2	2	3
1.3. Boundary demarcation	3	3	2	3
1.4. Biodiversity resource inventory	3	2	3	3
1.5. Heritage resource inventory	3	2	3	2
Subtotal	15	12 (80%)	13 (87%)	14 (93%)
2: PLANNING	VALUE	Trafalgar	Aliwal Shoal	iSimangaliso
2.1. Protected area design	3	3	2	3
2.2. Strategic management plan	3	0	2	3
2.3. Conservation development framework	3	0	1	3
2.4. Land and water use planning outside PA	3	2	2	2
Supplementary items	5	2	5	5
Subtotal	17	7 (41%)	12 (71%)	16 (94%)
3: INPUTS	VALUE	Trafalgar	Aliwal Shoal	iSimangaliso
3.1. Research and monitoring programme	3	1	3	2.5
3.2. Human resource capacity	3	3	2	2
3.3. Current budget	3	3	2	2
3.4. Security of budget	3	3	3	3
3.5. Income	3	N/A	2	2.5
3.5. Law enforcement	3	3	3	2
Subtotal	18	13/15 (87%)	15 (83%)	14 (78%)
4: PROCESS	VALUE	Trafalgar	Aliwal Shoal	iSimangaliso
4.1. Annual plan of operation	3	3	3	3
4.2. Biodiversity resource management	3	3	3	3
4.3. Heritage resource management	3	3	3	3
4.4. Human resource management	3	3	2	2
4.5. Administrative systems	3	3	2	2
4.6. Operational equipment and infrastructure	3	3	2	2
4.7. Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure	3	3	2	1
4.8. Education and awareness programme	3	1	3	3

4.9. Neighbours	3	3	2	2
4.10. Advisory committee/Forum	3	3	2	2.5
4.11. Community partners	3	1	2	2
4.12. Commercial tourism	3	N/A	2	2
4.13. Performance evaluation system	3	2	3	3
Supplementary items	3	3	3	3
Subtotal	42	34/39 (87%)	34 (81%)	33.5 (80%)
5: OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES	VALUE	Trafalgar	Aliwal Shoal	iSimangaliso
5.1. Visitor facilities	3	2	1	3
5.2. Ecological condition assessment	3	3	2	3
5.3. Heritage condition assessment	3	3	2	3
5.4. Protection systems	3	3	2	2
5.5. Economic and social benefit assessment	3	1	3	3
Supplementary items	2	2	1	1
Subtotal	17	14 (88)	11 (69%)	15 (94%)
Total 2013 Score	109/109	80/103	85/109	92/109
Total 2013	100%	78%	78%	85%

5.2 Trafalgar MPA

5.2.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Trafalgar MPA is situated on the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal, between Marina Beach and Mpenjati. Approximately one third of the MPA is situated adjacent to the Mpenjati Nature Reserve. The MPAs coastline is 4.8km and it extends one nautical mile offshore from the high water mark. Habitats represented in the MPA include sandy beaches, rocky platforms and subtidal sandy benthos and reefs. Although the Mpenjati estuary occurs within this MPA, it is not included in the official legislation. The area was initially declared as a marine reserve in 1979 to protect marine fossil deposits and was re-proclaimed under the MLRA in 2000. The beaches in the MPA are popular with tourists and locals for swimming and recreational shore angling is allowed.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- There is no management plan.
- Some staff are still lacking basic MPA related skills and sufficient report writing skills.
- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme needs to be designed and implemented.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

Noted improvements since the previous assessment include:

- The appointment of an MPA manager is in process.
- There is adequate equipment available to conduct management functions.
- Good interpretative signage exists.
- Improved patrolling and enforcement of MPA regulations, and
- Management has made specific efforts and initiated processes to meaningfully engage with local stakeholders.

Given the fact that this MPA is managed as a controlled zone, the MPA design and size is viewed as inadequate in protecting marine living resources. Although the Ezemvelo Conservation Plan (SeaPlan) can assist with re-zoning based on known biodiversity, the MPA is too small to re-zone and reap the benefits of a multiple-zoned area. The only re-zoning that may be beneficial is to make the whole MPA no-take.

Annual surveys on the rocky shores are conducted as part of a biodiversity monitoring contract with DEA and DAFF, large-scale monitoring was last undertaken as part of the SEAPLAN programme. The expansion of the current research and monitoring programme for the MPA is seen as a priority to gain a better understanding of biodiversity within the MPA.

No management plan exists for the MPA. This should be deemed as a priority action.

All current MPA staff needs to attend capacity development training with a focus on MPA management training

Priority actions: Trafalgar MPA

1. Improve the current research and monitoring programme;
2. All personnel to attend MPA capacity development training, and
3. Develop and implement a management plan for the MPA.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

5.2.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The Trafalgar MPA was initially declared as a marine reserve in 1979 to protect marine fossil deposits and was re-proclaimed under the MLRA in 2000. There are no specific objectives and regulations provided for the MPA under the MLRA, however the proclamation indicates that recreational shore angling is permitted but boat angling and spearfishing activities are restricted to a list of pelagic gamefish species. The latter regulation is almost impossible to enforce as boats launch outside the MPA boundaries. The protection of fossils is not a listed objective for the MPA and there are no regulations relating to the fossils directly under the MLRA. The objectives that apply to the MPA are the broad objectives provided under Section 43 of the MLRA to protect fauna and flora and the physical features on which they depend, or to facilitate fisheries management, or to diminish conflict arising from competing uses.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

Protected area regulations exist in accordance with the MLRA and the coastline is patrolled on a daily basis with occasional patrols at sea to enforce these regulations.

Boundary demarcation (3/3)

The boundaries of the MPA are demarcated with poles and good signage exists on the boundaries and parking lots and at prominent launch sites in the area.

Biodiversity resource inventory (2/3)

The last major biodiversity survey was undertaken in 1998, however annual rocky shore surveys are undertaken as part of the Ezemvelo long-term monitoring programme. The area is very dynamic as a result of sand movement from the Mpenjati River. It is suggested that a renewed biodiversity survey is undertaken to monitor coastal changes.

Heritage resource inventory (2/3)

Fossil beds, for which the MPA was initially proclaimed, are known and recorded. An internal report was compiled by Olbers and Hassett in 2008 on the fossils within the MPA. The visibility of the fossils is dependent on sand movement.

PLANNING

Protected area design (3/3)

The MPA design is viewed as inadequate in terms of protecting marine living resources due to its small size and current zonation as a controlled zone. Furthermore the MPA incorporated only a portion of the fossil deposits that extend as far as the Umtamvuna River and inland.

Strategic management plan (0/3)

No management plan exists for the MPA. This should be deemed as a priority action.

Conservation development framework (0/3)

No conservation development framework exists. This component should be covered when a management plan is developed.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

EKZN Wildlife sit in the local municipal IDP and SDF meetings and there is good co-operation in dealing with land and water planning issues.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (1/3)

A research and monitoring programme exists with the support from EKZNW Scientific Services but could be improved.

Human resource capacity (3/3)

There are sufficient personnel that also collectively manage the adjacent Mpenjati Nature Reserve. Regular patrolling is taking place within the MPA and minimal user conflict exists.

Current budget (3/3)

Current budget is adequate for the management of this MPA.

Security of current budget (3/3)

The budget is secure through a MoU between EKZNW and DEA: O&C.

Income (N/A)

No income is generated by this MPA.

Law enforcement (3/3)

Regular patrolling is taking place with constant checking of permits. No conflict between users and authorities currently exists.

PROCESS

Annual plan of operation (3/3)

A three-year APO is in existence and is linked to budget availability. This APO has been signed off and approved.

Biodiversity resource management (3/3)

Active patrolling is taking place to monitor extractive use and to monitor the fossil beds. Better understanding of the biodiversity is needed to determine gaps in biodiversity management. This could be achieved if a dedicated research and monitoring budget for the MPA was created.

Heritage resource management (3/3)

Fossil beds are being managed in accordance to the APO.

Human resources management (3/3)

Staff members are well motivated and equipped to undertake and achieve objectives. The appointment of an MPA manager is in process. A corporal and two field rangers are currently based on the MPA.

Administrative systems (3/3)

The work plan guides the administrative systems and these are adequately met.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (3/3)

All required equipment is available. The administrative office at Mpenjati Nature Reserve is supportive and used as interpretive center when needed.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (3/3)

All equipment needed by the MPA is well maintained. There is however no dedicated vessel available for offshore sea patrols.

Education and awareness programme (1/3)

A community conservation officer is responsible for education awareness functions within the Trafalgar MPA and surroundings. Education and awareness is undertaken on selected marine calendar days where MPA neighbouring schools are given marine education awareness programmes.

Neighbours (3/3)

There is good communication and co-operation from neighbours, EKZNW personnel attend the community safety forum and good co-operation is received from the SAPS in southern KZN.

Advisory committee (3/3)

See above.

Community partners (1/3)

EKZNW liaise with stakeholders in the area including: SAPS, National Prosecuting Authority, Road Traffic Inspectorate, DAFF, DEA, Forestry, the local municipality, local subsistence fishers, conservancies, honorary officers and user groups. Liaison meetings are co-ordinated, facilitated and attended with all local stakeholders.

Commercial tourism (N/A)

There is no commercial tourism within the Trafalgar MPA.

Performance evaluation system (2/3)

Targets are set annually and in accordance with available budget. Senior management meet on a monthly basis and through quarterly reporting, monitors these targets.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

No visitor facilities exist within the MPA but a visitor interpretation center exists on the adjacent Mpenjati Nature Reserve. Signage is in good condition.

Ecological condition assessment (3/3)

Biodiversity and ecological processes are being managed in accordance to the management objectives. However, better understanding of the biodiversity in the MPA is needed to determine if further management actions are needed to ensure ecological integrity. All extractive activities are monitored with records being kept of fish catches and EKZNW Scientific Services monitor the ecological integrity of the rocky shores.

Heritage condition assessment (3/3)

No specific management is undertaken for the fossil beds.

Protection systems (3/3)

The MPA is well patrolled with daily foot patrols and irregular boat patrols.

Economic and social benefit assessment (1/3)

The MPA has no direct impact on the economy though it is a popular area for swimming and recreational fishing.

5.3 Aliwal Shoal MPA

5.3.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

Aliwal Shoal is a 5km long offshore reef composed of fossilised sandstone that ranges in depth from 9 to 27meters. It is situated 5km offshore from the Umkomaas River mouth. The Aliwal Shoal MPA incorporates the Aliwal Shoal and two wrecks in two core, restricted zones, which are surrounded by a controlled zone. The MPA extends 18.3km along the coast between the Umkomaas and Mzimayi River mouths, and 7km offshore.

The inner edge of the warm Agulhas current runs along the Aliwal Shoal providing conditions for a rich diversity of tropical marine biota consisting of hard and soft corals, turtles and reef fish, as well as whale sharks, tiger sharks, hammerhead sharks and seasonal aggregations of ragged-tooth sharks. The protection of the Aliwal Shoal is important as it is a popular dive site, it provides an important benchmark for research, and it provides a refuge for the conservation of fish species as it contains both breeding and nursery areas. Key ecological assets include the ragged-tooth sharks which aggregate on the shoal to mate during their migration north, diverse soft coral communities and resident reef fish species.

Divers, ski-boat fishers, charter fishers, spear fishers, rock and surf fishers and commercial fishers utilise the area. Conflicts have arisen between divers and fishermen, charter and commercial fishers and ski-boat fishers and the diving community, particularly with regard to shark diving and chumming.

Objectives:

- Protect and conserve the marine ecosystem and populations of marine species on and around the Aliwal Shoal;
- To reduce user conflicts over the use of the Aliwal Shoal, and
- To promote ecotourism within the MPA.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- There is a management plan however it is inadequate in its current form as stakeholders were not effectively engaged in the planning process.
- Activity regulations need gazetting.
- Staff lacked a basic understanding of MPA theory and the applicable legislation.
- Most staff members lacked basic skills required for operations in MPAs.
- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme with results to be used in adaptive management needs to be designed and implemented.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

Noted improvements in management since the previous assessment include:

- The EKZNW team that is operating on and managing the MPA is well motivated and efficient in their management actions.
- There is adequate equipment and infrastructure available to conduct management functions.
- New interpretative signs have been erected.
- Education programmes and workshops which raise awareness in school groups and target the affected communities and resource users have been implemented.
- Management has made specific efforts and initiated processes to meaningfully engage with local stakeholders.
- An effective education and awareness programme is in place.

Shark diving operators are not complying with the legislation, exemptions, permit conditions and regulations. Diver conflict is occurring between recreational dive operators and those operators who have shark-baiting operations. A review of operating standards and procedures is needed for this group and the impact of chumming on shark behavior needs urgent investigation.

Currently, the Aliwal Shoal MPA does not provide sufficient protection for marine biodiversity, as the no-take zones are too small. Important deep reef systems are not protected and similarly there is no protection provided to surf-zone and estuarine habitats within the MPA. Proposals have been tabled by the EKZNW planning team to re-zone and expand the existing MPA.

The current management plan is out of date and needs to be reviewed, this process is awaiting finalisation of Aliwal Shoal MPA rezonation.

Priority actions: Aliwal Shoal MPA

- Review operating standards and procedures for all shark diving operators;
- Review the current budget availability and increase as per actual needs;
- Ensure appointment of a permanent skipper for the MPA;
- Undertake a public participation process to get support for the planned re-zonation and extension of the MPA , and
- Review and update the current management plan.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

5.3.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The Aliwal Shoal MPA was proclaimed under the MLRA in 2004. The co-ordinates for the boundaries of the MPA and its zones and regulations for activities in the zones, vessel use and scuba diving are provided in the schedule.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

Although permit regulations are in place and EKZNW staff are conducting compliance activities, some problems exist. Shark diving operators are not complying with the relevant legislation. The regulations governing commercial fishing within the MPA conflict with the objectives for the management of the Aliwal Shoal. Diver conflict is also occurring between recreational diver operators and those operators who have shark-baiting operations. From visual observation of the shark diving operators, tighter controls are needed to manage this group, who often do not adhere to safety procedures and throw sardines amongst the divers to bring sharks closer to the divers. This has serious safety implications. It also appears that excessive amounts of chum are dumped to attract and excite sharks. A number of shark dive operators failed to carry permits and safety equipment. A review of operating standards and procedures is needed for this group. All MPA staff are appointed as Grade 5 Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) which gives them powers to enforce both the MLRA and NEM: PAA regulations.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

Given the offshore nature of the MPA, demarcation is difficult other than through the use of GPS. All boundary signs within the MPA depict the offshore GPS coordinates and these boards are in place in all designated launch sites and boundaries (Umkomaas, Scottburgh-Cutty Sark, Rocky Bay and Umzimayi).

Biodiversity resource inventory (3/3)

The biodiversity of the Aliwal Shoal MPA is well known and is regularly monitored by the EKZNW dive team.

Heritage resource inventory (3/3)

The wrecks of the Produce and the Nebo are the only heritage assets recorded within the MPA.

PLANNING

Protected area design (2/3)

Currently, the Aliwal Shoal MPA does not provide sufficient protection for marine biodiversity, as the no-take zones are too small. Important deep reef systems are not protected. Re-zonation proposals have been tabled by the EKZNW Scientific Services to proclaim an expanded MPA that will also add an additional sanctuary zone and restricted zone. EKZNW management and DEA have approved the proposal and there is a need to follow up with stakeholder consultation processes. EKZNW and other relevant stakeholders indicated that there was not a sufficient buffer zone around the core areas. They suggested that the restricted area be expanded and that shore fishing should be prohibited. The current zonation prohibits fishing in the core, restricted zones which are used for diving only, however there are difficulties in ensuring compliance by fishers, as there is no offshore demarcation of the restricted zone.

Strategic management plan (2/3)

The current management plan is out of date and needs updating. This is waiting on the completion of the re-zonation process.

Conservation development framework (1/3)

Although there is not a specific conservation development framework in place, there is zonation for the MPA and all signage depicting MPA boundaries have recently been replaced.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

The outlet of the SAPPI's SAICCOR mill pipeline continues to be an issue and has a negative impact on the MPA as the effluent impacts on visibility that reduces the recreational divers' positive experience of the shoal. All IDP and SDF issues are addressed within the framework of the local fishing forum, which is chaired by EKZNW and which the local municipality attends.

INPUTS**Research and monitoring programme (3/3)**

Regular beach, reef and diver monitoring is taking place with findings being incorporated into management decision-making.

Human resource capacity (2/3)

A team of six compliance staff and one project administrator are dedicated to the management of the Aliwal Shoal MPA. Given the high recreational diving, shark diving and fishing conflict that is taking place around the reef, it is critical that MPA staff are available to deal with effective operational management.

Current budget (2/3)

The current budget covers all operational costs for MPA management, but is insufficient for employing dedicated MPA personnel on a permanent basis.

Security of current budget (3/3)

There is a secure MoU in place between DEA: O&C and EKZNW to ensure budget is available. However, this budget does not consider staffing costs or the high cost of maintenance and replacement of capital items.

Income (2/3)

All income generated from scuba diving permits, fishing permits and fines goes to DEA: O&C and DAFF who in return provide funding for EKZNW through contractual arrangements.

Law enforcement (3/3)

Regular shore and boat-based patrolling is undertaken, however given the limited number of personnel on the MPA it is not possible to be available at all times.

PROCESS**Annual plan of operation (3/3)**

An annual plan of operation exists and is linked to the budget and management plan objectives.

Biodiversity resource management (3/3)

Biodiversity is managed to the best of current knowledge and focuses on the management of the scuba divers and shark divers. The impact that the chumming is having on shark behavior needs urgent investigation.

Heritage resource management (3/3)

No management is required of the two known shipwrecks within the MPA.

Human resources management (2/3)

Morale is high and the staff operates extremely well as a team. The field ranger staff members are well trained and are appointed as Grade 5 EMIs but could benefit from further administrative skills. The skipper and project administrator posts are renewable on an annual basis and should be made permanent to ensure dedicated staff.

Administrative systems (2/3)

The MPA has a dedicated administration office and administration personnel based within the MPA. This office services user groups and the general public.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

The MPA is well equipped to meet operational requirements.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

An approved maintenance schedule exists and the availability of a skilled skipper has increased the standard of maintenance on the patrol boat and he is also transferring maintenance skills to the rest of the team.

Education and awareness programme (3/3)

Fourteen honorary officers assist with continual education and awareness programmes. Excellent brochures exist and a dedicated trailer is available for road shows up and down the coastline.

Neighbours (2/3)

The Aliwal Shoal MPA Forum has recently been re-established. It is well represented by user groups of the area and meets on a quarterly basis. Dive operators are difficult with some openly flouting the rules. Extensive law enforcement has improved the situation and they are now mostly compliant.

Advisory committee (2/3)

As above.

Community partners (2/3)

As above.

Commercial tourism (2/3)

As above.

Performance evaluation system (3/3)

Senior management and scientific services assess the MPA at least twice a year and performance is measured through quarterly reporting and KPAs.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (1/3)**

No EKZNW visitor facilities exist for this MPA although there is a public information office in Scottburgh that is managed by EKZNW. There are diver facilities at both the Umkomaas and Rocky Bay launch sites.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

Most ecological and biodiversity values are being managed, however the outflow of the SAPPI's SAICCOR mill pipeline is impacting on the shoal and the chumming for sharks also appears to have a negative impact on the behavior of these sharks. Currently there are shark net installations at Rocky Bay and Scottburgh that fall within the MPA. There has been an increase in the number of sharks being caught in the nets and non-target species (turtles, dolphin and whales). This is in conflict with the objectives of Aliwal Shoal MPA.

Heritage condition assessment (2/3)

Heritage assets are being managed in accordance to requirements.

Protection systems (2/3)

Effective compliance is taking place within the constraints of budgets and sufficient personnel.

Economic and social benefit assessment (3/3)

There is a long-term benefit to the local and regional economy through scuba diving and shark diving operations. Approximately 40 000 divers per annum visit the Aliwal Shoal MPA. In 2009 the tiger shark industry alone was valued at over R12 million per annum.

5.4 iSimangaliso Wetland Park MPAs

5.4.1. Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The St Lucia and Maputaland MPAs are contiguous MPAs situated in northern KwaZulu-Natal and form part of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site that was established in 1999. The coastline of the park is 190km long and the MPAs collectively make up about 145km of this, extending from the border of Mozambique and South Africa to a point 1km south of Cape Vidal. A southern marine section of the park extending between the points 1km south of Cape Vidal to Cape St Lucia has not been declared as an MPA under the MLRA but is managed holistically with the MPAs as the marine section of the park is declared in terms of the World Heritage Convention Act (WHCA). This assessment will focus on the MPAs currently declared under the MLRA in a collective manner, but brief descriptions of different aspects of management in the excluded southern section will be included, as this section has been proposed as an extension to the existing MPAs.

The MPAs are of international and national significance and include turtle nesting beaches and coral reefs. The MPAs are situated within the Delagoa coastal bioregion that ends at Cape Vidal, and are influenced by the warm Agulhas current that flows southwards from the tropics. The MPAs extend three nautical miles offshore and include the most southern extension of coral reefs in South Africa, submarine canyons that support endangered fish species such as coelacanths, subtidal rocky reefs, long sandy beaches and rocky shores.

The MPAs are important for marine conservation as they contain a high diversity of marine species, form refuges for breeding populations of endemic fish species and are important nesting areas for loggerhead and leatherback turtles. The MPAs are popular recreational fishing and diving destinations and have immense economic potential through tourism. There is a world-renowned turtle-monitoring programme that has been running for 50 years and a considerable amount of research has been conducted with the MPAs.

Some areas within the MPAs are also of importance to traditional fishers and intertidal harvesters living in coastal sections of the park.

Threats:

- Overexploitation of intertidal invertebrates;
- Illegal fishing by vessels entering the Maputaland MPA from adjacent Mozambican waters;
- Intense recreational angling at beach access nodes;
- Illegal developments in the coastal zone, and
- Excessive diving pressure on some reefs in close vicinity to Sodwana Bay.

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority are responsible for the management of the park and have contracted EKZNW to manage the conservation aspect. Thus both organisations are involved in the management of the MPAs.

REVIEW OF 2009 PRIORITIES

- There was a lack of enforcement of scuba diver permits, poor offshore enforcement and a lack of offshore enforcement at night.
- Sign boards with maps, GPS co-ordinates and information specific to the MPAs needed to be erected with the correct terminology.
- A comprehensive management effectiveness monitoring programme with results to be used in adaptive management needed to be designed and implemented.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

The MPAs lying within the borders of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park are generally well managed and the Wetland Park Authority and EKZNW need to be commended for this. The combined use of the NEM: PAA, the WHCA and the MLRA have improved management effectiveness and the control of inappropriate activities and should serve as a best practice model to be implemented for the rest of South Africa's MPAs wherever possible. There is adequate equipment and infrastructure available to conduct management functions and facilities are constantly being improved and upgraded within budget constraints. MPA management capacity development needs to be rolled out for new MPA managers and field rangers.

Most critical habitats are included within the boundaries of the MPAs, however the shelf-edge and a number of submarine canyons are located beyond the offshore boundary of the MPAs. It was suggested that the boundaries should be extended further offshore so as to provide effective protection for these habitats. In addition, the Delagoa bioregion break is located at Cape Vidal, and the extension of the MPA, to include the southern portion of the park, would offer increased protection to a section of the Natal bioregion, the transition area between the two bioregions and the mouth of the St Lucia estuary.

Priority actions: iSimangaliso Wetland Park MPA

- Focused attention is needed to ensure the expansion of the current MPA to include the deep water habitats beyond the offshore boundary of the MPA and to extend the MPA boundary southwards so as to align it with the terrestrial sections of the park.
- Vacant posts within MPA sections need to be prioritised for filling by EKZNW.
- The current budget is largely static and does not consider the costs of inflation and the needs for replacing and purchasing capital items such as vehicles and patrol vessels. DEA needs to review and support increased budget allocation to the MPA.
- Operational equipment is getting old and worn out and is in need of replacement. Two existing patrol boats are in need of replacement and related infrastructure needs maintenance.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

5.4.2. Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The St Lucia MPA, initially declared in 1979, and the Maputaland MPA, initially declared in 1984, were later re-proclaimed under the MLRA in 2000. The co-ordinates of the boundaries and zones within these MPAs were provided in the proclamation.

iSimangaliso Wetland Park was declared a WHS in Government Notice No. 4477 in November 2000 (initially named the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park). The St Lucia and Maputaland MPAs are contained within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and thus have dual designation under the MLRA and the WHCA.

The zones described in the integrated management plan for the area are compatible with the existing zones regarding the use of marine living resources.

Protected area regulations (3/3)

Management authorities reported that the combined use of the NEM: PAA, the WHCA and the MLRA was effective for the control of inappropriate activities, as weaknesses and gaps in the MLRA are addressed in the other legislation.

Boundary demarcation (3/3)

The GPS co-ordinates of the boundaries of the MPA were provided in the proclamation and are clearly demarcated by large white numbered beacons on the shore that can easily be seen from sea.

Biodiversity resource inventory (3/3)

The MPAs are well studied with good biodiversity resource information being available. Numerous studies are currently being conducted including coral, reef fish and turtle monitoring. Much focus has been given to the high utilisation of reefs around Sodwana.

Heritage resource inventory (2/3)

Cultural and heritage understanding is adequate for the current management of these resources and is currently not a priority for further work.

PLANNING

Protected area design (3/3)

Most critical habitats were included within the boundaries of the MPAs, however the deep canyons were located on the offshore boundary of the MPAs. It was suggested that the boundaries be extended further offshore so to provide effective protection for these habitats. In addition the Delagoa bioregion break is located at Cape Vidal. The extension of the MPA, to include the southern portion of the Park, would offer increased protection to a section of the Natal bioregion, the transition area between the two bioregions and the estuary. The size of the MPA was adequate for maintaining ecological processes. Critical areas included within the MPAs were afforded extra protection through the zonation of the MPAs under the MLRA. Mozambique now also has a 70km long MPA (the Ponto do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve) that is directly adjacent to the iSimangaliso MPAs and both areas are now starting to align management strategies.

Strategic management plan (3/3)

An over-arching strategic management plan exists for the entire iSimangaliso Wetland Park and includes the marine sections. Subsidiary plans are accommodated for in the IMP. This results in a very integrated management approach being undertaken between terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Conservation development framework (3/3)

The conservation development framework is incorporated and considered within the broader strategic IMP.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

Although land and water use planning is fully considered within the park, concerns still do arise around plantations, coastal development and the management of catchments beyond the borders of the park.

INPUTS**Research and monitoring programme (2.5/3)**

As previously mentioned, good research and monitoring has been and continues to be undertaken within the MPA boundaries. There are currently 170 researchers across a number of organisations and institutions that are undertaking work within the park boundaries. The management authority is focusing research and monitoring on filling gaps that will improve management and strict controls ensure rigor.

Human resource capacity (2/3)

EKZNW is responsible for fulfilling the daily management of the MPAs under the authority of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. There is a good coverage of staff across the MPA but issues of concern arise around the time that it takes EKZNW to fill vacant positions that are critical to the effective management of the MPAs. There is a young dynamic team of managers for the MPAs and a focused approach to improving capacity is currently underway.

Current budget (2/3)

The current budget is static and does not consider the costs of inflation and the needs for replacing and purchasing capital items such as vehicles and patrol vessels.

Security of current budget (3/3)

Budget is secured within a MoU between DEA: O&C and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority; however as mentioned above this budget is largely static and needs reviewing to consider inflation costs.

Income (2.5/3)

Income is generated through the MPA but this is used across the entire park and conversely the MPA benefits from income generated by the rest of the park.

Law enforcement (2/3)

Good controls and regulations are in place, but this is compromised by the ability to operate offshore due to insufficient skilled personnel and the necessary equipment. The iSimangaliso MPAs are a major target for recreational fishing and for fishing competitions. Increased controls are being implemented.

PROCESS**Annual plan of operation (3/3)**

An annual plan of operation that is linked to the strategic management plan, budgets and the DEA: O&C MoU is in place.

Biodiversity resource management (3/3)

Ongoing research and monitoring is continuing and management interventions are focusing on ensuring ecological integrity. A large focused programme of work is currently underway to restore estuary health of the Lake St Lucia estuary. This will have a beneficial impact on the entire ecosystem.

Heritage resource management (3/3)

Traditional and cultural access and practices are encouraged within the park. The Kosi Bay fish traps and subsistence harvesting is monitored and a working group with community members is in place, however there are ongoing conflicts within the park which need to be addressed.

Human resources management (2/3)

Vacant posts that are not being filled lower morale as at present only one of the managers is able to launch a patrol vessel. This has a knock on effect on management effectiveness and morale.

Administrative systems (2/3)

Reporting structures have recently been updated and refined. Administrative systems are focused and streamlined, though the literacy levels of field rangers can be problematic on occasion when recording field patrolling.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

Operational equipment is getting old and worn out and is in need of replacement. Two patrol boats are in need of replacement and infrastructure needs maintenance.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (1/3)

Maintenance is largely reactive and is budget linked and is also linked to critical management posts that are left vacant. These manager posts need filling with urgency to ensure proper implementation of the APO and enable proactive maintenance.

Education and awareness programme (3/3)

Education and awareness programmes are funded by DEA: O&C and are implemented by EKZNW as part of their overall education programme. Community guides have also been trained to aid implementation in accordance to the IMP. Lotto funding has supported the purchase of a bus to be used in school educational programmes.

Neighbours (2/3)

Given the large size of the area, there are numerous consultation processes that cover the 600 000 people that are living within park boundaries. Focused, representative forums are available to address MPA related issues.

Advisory committee (2.5/3)

See above.

Community partners (2/3)

See above.

Commercial tourism (2/3)

Additional personnel have been appointed to better engage with commercial tour operators and these personnel work with the operators to improve their operations.

Performance evaluation system (3/3)

Regular monitoring of effectiveness takes place through spot checks, quarterly reporting, monthly meetings and high-level meetings between the park authority and EKZNW and DEA: O&C.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (3/3)**

Visitor facilities are generally good throughout the stretch of coastline, though the facilities in the far north of the park are in need of improvement. Benchmarking of all launch sites is taking place through annual photography.

Ecological condition assessment (3/3)

Due to the integrated management approaches within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, ecological conditions are being maintained. All extractive use of biological resources is being recorded by EKZNW and processed by ORI (i.e. data capture and analysis).

Heritage condition assessment (3/3)

All heritage and cultural assets are being managed within the strict guidelines of the World Heritage Convention Act.

Protection systems (2/3)

Poaching is taking place from the seaward side of the MPA. However, the limited capacity of MPA staff to launch boats and conduct effective sea patrols (and to quickly fill critical vacancies) is reducing their efficiency to curb illegal activities. However, it is believed that these illegal activities are fairly infrequent.

Economic and social benefit assessment (3/3)

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park and associated MPAs are critical drivers of the economy in the region and preferential employment and empowerment is given to local communities.

CHAPTER 6 CITY OF CAPE TOWN

6.1 City of Cape Town Overview

1: CONTEXT	VALUE	Helderberg
1.1. Legal status	3	3
1.2. Protected area regulations	3	2
1.3. Boundary demarcation	3	2
1.4. Biodiversity resource inventory	3	0
1.5. Heritage resource inventory	3	1
Subtotal	15	8 (53%)
2: PLANNING	VALUE	Helderberg
2.1. Protected area design	3	2
2.2. Strategic management plan	3	1
2.3. Conservation development framework	3	N/A
2.4. Land and water use planning outside PA	3	2
Supplementary items	5	0
Subtotal	17	5/14 (36%)
3: INPUTS	VALUE	Helderberg
3.1. Research and monitoring programme	3	0
3.2. Human resource capacity	3	1
3.3. Current budget	3	1
3.4. Security of budget	3	2
3.5. Income	3	N/A
3.6. Law enforcement	3	1
Subtotal	18	5/15 (33%)
4: PROCESS	VALUE	Helderberg
4.1. Annual plan of operation	3	1
4.2. Biodiversity resource management	3	2
4.3. Heritage resource management	3	2
4.4. Human resource management	3	2
4.5. Administrative systems	3	3
4.6. Operational equipment and infrastructure	3	2
4.7. Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure	3	3
4.8. Education and awareness programme	3	0
4.9. Neighbours	3	3
4.10. Advisory committee/Forum	3	0
4.11. Community partners	3	0

4.12. Commercial tourism	3	N/A
4.13. Performance evaluation system	3	1
Supplementary items	3	1
Subtotal	42	20/39 (51%)
5: OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES	VALUE	Helderberg
5.1. Visitor facilities	3	0
5.2. Ecological condition assessment	3	2
5.3. Heritage condition assessment	3	2
5.4. Protection systems	3	3
5.5. Economic and social benefit assessment	3	1
Supplementary items	2	2
Subtotal	17	11 (69%)
Total 2013 Score	109	49/100
Total 2013 (%)	100%	49%

6.2 Helderberg MPA

6.2.1 Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Helderberg MPA was declared under the MLRA on 29 December 2000 (GN R1429) and is situated on the north eastern shore of False Bay in the Western Cape. The MPA is adjacent to land owned by the city and managed as a nature conservancy under the NEM: PAA. It is a small MPA that consists of 4km of sandy shoreline between the Eerste River mouth and the Lourens River mouth, and extends 500m offshore from the high water mark. The MPA is a no-take zone.

Currently the boundaries on the beach are fenced and no signs or beacons have been erected. There are no public access roads to the land adjacent to the MPA. The shoreline within the MPA is regarded as the last portion of untouched sandy beach on the north shore of False Bay (C. Attwood pers. comm.).

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

Although rather small in size, this MPA does protect an important section of the False Bay sandy beach which is not protected elsewhere. The MPA is grossly underfunded with the current available budget only covering two thirds of the current manager's salary. No funds are available for the purchase of needed capital equipment items and to ensure sufficient staff numbers. A full time manager with at least one full time field ranger is needed to manage this MPA. If appointed the field ranger could also be used to compliment law enforcement initiatives expanding beyond the Helderberg MPA to areas such as Macassar, Gordon's Bay, Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve and Seal Island. It is also suggested that the current line management reporting structure for the MPA manager be reviewed with a possibility of the manager reporting directly into the City of Cape Town's Marine and Coastal Law Enforcement Unit. The MPA manager needs to improve his understanding of MPA management and should attend a certificate course in MPA management.

This lack of funding means that there are few opportunities available to ensure effective compliance and enforcement, environmental education and to develop and implement a research and monitoring programme. In respect of these initiatives, it is possible to develop real partnerships to ensure their effective implementation. The City of Cape Town's Marine and Coastal Law Enforcement Unit could assist with compliance of MPA regulations, while local universities could also be called to assist with a research and monitoring programme.

A management plan for the MPA has been under draft since 2010. This plan needs to be updated and completed so that effective implementation can take place. This plan should outline the development and initiation of a compliance strategy and advisory forum for the MPA. A performance management assessment process should also be outlined within the management plan.

Given the rich biodiversity that is of global importance and is found on and around Seal Island within False Bay, consideration should be given to develop a rationale document that will see the greater False Bay area being proclaimed as an MPA which could be strategically managed through the existing structures of the Helderberg MPA, provided the management resources are further built up.

Priority actions: Helderberg MPA

- Review budget and ensure sufficient funding is received from DEA: O&C to properly staff and equip the MPA to enable effective management;
- Review the line management reporting structure for the MPA manager to improve management effectiveness;
- Develop a compliance strategy for the MPA that enables support from the City of Cape Town's Marine and Coastal Law Enforcement Unit;
- Develop and implement a research and monitoring programme for the MPA and develop a partnership with a local university to run this programme;
- The City of Cape Town should work with SANParks and DEA: O&C on developing a rationale document that highlights the need to incorporate Seal Island and its surrounding waters into the MPA.
- Finalise and implement the management plan for the MPA;
- MPA Manager to attend certificate training course in MPA management;
- Develop and implement an advisory forum, and
- Develop and initiate a performance management system for the MPA and complete at least twice per annum.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

6.2.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The Helderberg MPA was proclaimed under the MLRA on 29 December 2000 as a no-take MPA.

Protected area regulations (2/3)

No site-specific regulations exist for this MPA. Budgetary and manpower constraints limit the implementation of regulations. Opportunities exist to work with the City of Cape Town's Marine and Coastal Law Enforcement Unit to assist with patrolling and enforcing of regulations.

Boundary demarcation (2/3)

Beacons and fences that run from the shore into the sea demarcate the coastal boundaries, however these fences are in a state of disrepair and have presented a number of challenges towards the management of the Helderberg MPA. These mainly include rights of access to the coast as well as the presence of old fence structures being left (clutter) and potential health and safety concerns for the public. The width of the Helderberg MPA is defined based on the position of the Lourens and Eerste River estuaries. Due to the very nature of estuaries, these positions frequently change. These shifting boundaries cause tension with local fishers as the no-take zone is constantly changing. Either the boundaries of the MPA need to be less flexible (defined absolutely) or an educational campaign needs to be embarked on to advise the fishers of the mobile boundaries and what this means. Denel has motion detectors in place that also prevent coastal access to the MPA.

Biodiversity resource inventory (0/3)

There is no current understanding of biodiversity assets within the MPA. An option exists to enter into a partnership with a local university to undertake baseline biodiversity studies for this MPA.

Heritage resource inventory (1/3)

There is little information available on heritage assets within the MPA. SAHRA should be contacted for assistance.

PLANNING

Protected area design (2/3)

The current design protects a section of the sandy beaches along the False Bay coastline. Consideration should be given to protecting the high biodiversity value around Seal Island that lies offshore from the Helderberg MPA.

Strategic management plan (1/3)

A draft MPA management plan has been completed and included as a chapter in the City's Coastal Management Programme (CMP). The CMP is a requirement of the ICM Act and the CMP will likely go out for stakeholder comment in September/October 2014.

Conservation development framework (N/A)

The MPA is zoned as a no-take MPA and there is no need for a visitor use plan or CDF.

Land and water use planning (2/3)

Denel and Heartland (previously AECI) have outlet pipelines into the MPA but these are no longer in use. The Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) is currently undertaking pollution studies within the MPA, though it will be difficult for the MPA management to address this pollution. An additional outfall to cater for the increased infrastructure is planned as part of a new residential development. There is no strategic conservation plan to integrate these impacts with the MPA which is a problem. Relatively good co-operation exists between MPA management and Denel and Heartland.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (0/3)

Basic monitoring is taking place in the MPA in terms of recording items such as law enforcement infringements, quantities of rubbish removed during clean-ups and observations of coastal and marine life. However, there is no formalised research and monitoring currently taking place on the MPA. It is suggested that a partnership is developed together with a local university to undertake baseline research and monitoring and to develop a long-term priority needs assessment.

Human resource capacity (1/3)

The MPA currently only employs a single MPA manager who is often pulled away to assist on the Helderberg Nature Reserve. Only two thirds of this manager's costs are paid for by the MPA. This makes operational management of the MPA virtually impossible. A full time manager with at least one full time field ranger is needed to manage this MPA. The City of Cape Town Marine Unit can provide law enforcement support. The current manager also needs to attend a certificate course in MPA Management.

Current budget (1/3)

The current budget for the MPA is inadequate and only covers two thirds of the salary for the manager. There is no funding available for capital items necessary for the effective management of the MPA. Ideally these items would include a small vessel, 4x4 vehicle and research equipment, funds are also needed for enhancing law enforcement support for the MPA.

Security of current budget (2/3)

The current budget is only secured on an annual basis through a MoU between the City of Cape Town and DEA: O&C and this provides no opportunity for long-term planning. This also presents the City with HR challenges regarding the appointment and retention of an MPA manager on a contractual basis and ultimately becomes disruptive to the management of the MPA.

Income (N/A)

No income is generated by this MPA.

Law enforcement (1/3)

Given the current staffing situation on the MPA, law enforcement is difficult to implement. Opportunity exists to gain support for this from the City of Cape Town Marine Unit.

PROCESS

Annual plan of operation (1/3)

An APO exists and is linked to the Helderberg Nature Reserve complex. Implementation is difficult given staff capacity.

Biodiversity resource management (2/3)

Given the strict access controls by Denel, the beach section of the MPA is well protected. The MPA also shares a common boundary with the City of Cape Town's land which is managed as a Coastal Conservancy in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) by CapeNature. This land also forms part of the Coastal Protection Zone in terms of the ICM Act and as such is offered good protection. Limited staff capacity means that seaward protection of biodiversity resources is limited.

Heritage resource management (2/3)

There is little available information to determine if heritage resources are being protected. Support from SAHRA is needed to properly determine heritage within the MPA.

Human resources management (2/3)

The current manager has recently completed an introduction to MPA management training course and now needs to attend the full certificate course in MPA management.

Administrative systems (3/3)

The City of Cape Town has good administrative and support systems, though procurement is tedious due to the requirements of the PFMA. Quarterly reports, financial reports and annual work plans are submitted to DEA: O&C.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (2/3)

The MPA is poorly equipped for operational management and this is as a result of limited budget availability.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (3/3)

Maintenance of available equipment is to a high standard and in accordance to maintenance schedules.

Education and awareness programme (0/3)

No education and awareness programme currently exists for the MPA as a result of lack of capacity and funding.

Neighbours (3/3)

Good institutional relations occur with DEA, DAFF, Denel and Heartland, though there is little engagement with ratepayers from Strand.

Advisory committee (0/3)

No advisory forum exists.

Community partners (0/3)

Community partners have no input into management decision-making within the MPA. The City is however working closely with the Working for the Coast programme in a joint effort towards the removal of rubbish from the MPA.

Commercial tourism (N/A)

No commercial operations exist within the MPA and there is no scope to develop such activities.

Performance evaluation system (1/3)

No formal performance evaluation system is in place for the MPA and this assessment is the first undertaken on the MPA.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (0/3)**

No visitor facilities exist or are needed within this MPA. Basic amenities, such as raised boardwalks, and interpretive signs for environmental education programmes would improve visitor engagement and may be established in the future.

Ecological condition assessment (2/3)

Access to the coastal section of the MPA is well controlled with the result that the beach is well protected. Illegal boat-based fishing is taking place within the MPA. High levels of pollution and in particular heavy metals will have long-term negative consequences due to the testing of munitions by Denel and AECL.

Heritage condition assessment (2/3)

No active management of heritage assets is taking place.

Protection systems (3/3)

Some illegal access into the MPA is taking place through fishing boats and fishing kayaks. This is impossible to control given the current staffing and equipment status of the MPA.

Economic and social benefit assessment (1/3)

Economic and social benefits of the MPA have not been assessed but it is presumed that a minor benefit results from fishery spillover.

CHAPTER 7 NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY

7.1 Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Overview

1: CONTEXT	VALUE	Sardinia Bay
1.1. Legal status	3	3
1.2. Protected area regulations	3	1
1.3. Boundary demarcation	3	3
1.4. Biodiversity resource inventory	3	0
1.5. Heritage resource inventory	3	0
Subtotal	15	7 (40%)
2: PLANNING	VALUE	Sardinia Bay
2.1. Protected area design	3	0
2.2. Strategic management plan	3	0
2.3. Conservation development framework	3	N/A
2.4. Land and water use planning outside PA	3	3
Supplementary items	5	1
Subtotal	17	4/14 (28%)
3: INPUTS	VALUE	Sardinia Bay
3.1. Research and monitoring programme	3	0
3.2. Human resource capacity	3	2
3.3. Current budget	3	2
3.4. Security of budget	3	2
3.5. Income	3	N/A
3.5. Law enforcement	3	3
Subtotal	18	9/15 (50%)
4: PROCESS	VALUE	Sardinia Bay
4.1. Annual plan of operation	3	0
4.2. Biodiversity resource management	3	3
4.3. Heritage resource management	3	0
4.4. Human resource management	3	3
4.5. Administrative systems	3	3
4.6. Operational equipment and infrastructure	3	3
4.7. Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure	3	3
4.8. Education and awareness programme	3	1
4.9. Neighbours	3	3
4.10. Advisory committee/Forum	3	3
4.11. Community partners	3	3

4.12. Commercial tourism	3	1
4.13. Performance evaluation system	3	0
Supplementary items	3	2
Subtotal	42	28 (67%)
5: OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES	VALUE	Sardinia Bay
5.1. Visitor facilities	3	2
5.2. Ecological condition assessment	3	0
5.3. Heritage condition assessment	3	2
5.4. Protection systems	3	2
5.5. Economic and social benefit assessment	3	2
Supplementary items	2	0
Subtotal	17 (81%)	8 (47%)
Total 2013 Score	109	53/103
Total 2013 Percentage	100%	51%

7.2 Sardinia Bay MPA

7.2.1. Overview

MPA DESCRIPTION

The Sardinia Bay MPA is situated west of Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape. The shoreline of the MPA is 7km long and comprises rocky and sandy habitats. The MPA extends one nautical mile offshore and incorporates subtidal rocky reefs and sandy benthos. The MPA is a no-take MPA. At the time of the previous MPA assessment in 2009, no budget had been allocated to the management of Sardinia Bay MPA and no management staff had been appointed. In February 2010 a MoA was signed by Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality to manage the MPA.

SUMMARY OF 2013 FINDINGS

Up until 2009 no management authority had been appointed by DEAT. Management at Sardinia Bay was restricted to enforcement activities conducted by the local fishery control officer for the region. In February 2010 a MoA was signed between the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) and DEA: O&C. NMBM were provided with an annual budget to perform monitoring, surveillance and enforcement duties within the MPA. This has been a substantial improvement since 2009 as there are now staff dedicated to conducting enforcement activities within the MPA. However, there are still a number of areas that needed focused attention.

The MPA has no management plan or annual plan of operation. The preparation and availability of such documents is important as it enables proactive rather than reactive management. The management plan needs to be drawn up and completed as a matter of priority and so that a realistic annual plan of operations may be developed and which also identifies actual equipment and budget needs. A performance evaluation system must be implemented to measure management efficiency against this plan.

A major challenge, which cannot be addressed at the level of an MPA manager, is the lack of suitable regulations for diving and boat use in the MPA. This is posing a significant hindrance to enforcement efforts within the MPA where abalone poaching is a noted problem. There is a need for a legislative review to address some of the major problems facing MPA management.

There is a need for ecological base line studies and monitoring in the MPA, particularly since the MPA is still relatively new it would be valuable to define baselines and establish monitoring programmes to quantify the impact of the MPA.

Priority actions: Sardinia Bay MPA

- Draw up and finalise an MPA management plan;
- Identify the actual budget needed to manage the MPA and ensure that this is submitted to DEA: O&C;
- Expand capacity development of protected area staff so that they have a better understanding of MPA management and marine ecology;
- Conduct a legislative review of the regulations and municipal bylaws to consolidate a strategic approach to managing the MPA;
- Develop baseline biodiversity study to identify key resources and appropriate management strategies; and
- All staff need capacity development in MPA management, both at an introductory level and at a full certificate level.



Source: DEA: Oceans and Coasts

7.2.2 Current assessment

CONTEXT

Legal status (3/3)

The Sardinia Bay MPA was proclaimed under the MLRA in 2000 as a no-take area.

Protected area regulations (1/3)

The MPA is zoned as a no-take area but there are no specific regulations for the MPA. It was indicated that regulations specific to boating and diving in the MPA need to be drafted as a matter of urgency due to the ongoing abalone poaching problem and difficulties encountered when conducting enforcement activities.

Boundary demarcation (3/3)

Beacons located near to the Schoenmakerskop (eastern boundary) and Bushy Park (western boundary) demarcate the boundaries of the MPA on the shoreline.

Biodiversity resource inventory (0/3)

There is little or no information available to management regarding biodiversity resources within the MPA.

Heritage resource inventory (0/3)

There is little or no information available on heritage assets within the MPA.

PLANNING

Protected area design (0/3)

The diving and boating activities currently permitted within the MPA are significantly constraining the achievement of major management objectives. It is felt that the design of the

MPA will only be adequate once suitable regulations are applicable.

Strategic management plan (0/3)

No strategic management plan exists for the MPA. The drawing up of such a plan should be seen as a priority.

Conservation development framework (N/A)

The MPA is designated as a no-take MPA. No conservation development framework is needed.

Land and water use planning (3/3)

There is privately owned land, the Sardinia Bay Reserve and the Sylvic Nature Reserve (declared under Ordinance 19 of 1974 Nature and Environmental Conservation Ordinance) located adjacent to the MPA. The nature reserve is managed by the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality and it was indicated that the land and water use planning fully take into account the long-term needs of the MPA.

INPUTS

Research and monitoring programme (0/3)

A detailed monitoring and research programme is needed for the Sardinia Bay MPA.

Human resource capacity (2/3)

There are two newly appointed law enforcement officers dedicated to MPA management. Their training is largely in enforcement and should be expanded upon to incorporate other functions such as education and monitoring. Their participation in an MPA management course should be considered. A further two posts need to be filled.

Current budget (2/3)

The current budget is acceptable though does need to be supplemented to allow for increased staffing.

Security of current budget (2/3)

The budget is secure as a result of an open-ended MoA that is in place between DEA: O&C and NMBM.

Income (N/A)

The MPA generates no income.

Law enforcement (3/3)

The ability of staff to conduct enforcement activities within the MPA is not hindered by their capacity or available resources but rather by the lack of suitable regulations. MPA staff members do not have the mandate to control diving activities from boats within the MPA and this has severely hampered their enforcement efficiency. The NMBM has recognised the importance of working in close association with relevant stakeholders in order to be effective in law enforcement. As such they have entered into a working relationship with the Wild Coast Abalone Farm Consortium in which NMBM will assist with the training of their staff and a collective anti-poaching team for the broader area, inclusive of the MPA, will be formed.

PROCESS

Annual plan of operation (0/3)

No approved or standardised APO exists for the MPA.

Biodiversity resource management (3/3)

Management interventions for the maintenance of biodiversity are focused on the control of resource use. The staff is able to fully control angling activities within the MPA, but is unable to prevent the poaching of abalone within the MPA.

Heritage resource management (0/3)

There is little or no information available on heritage assets within the MPA.

Human resources management (3/3)

Staff morale is high and the staff has the skills required for the foreseeable management activities in the MPA.

Administrative systems (3/3)

The administrative systems of the NMBM fully support the effective management of the MPA.

Operational equipment and infrastructure (3/3)

The NMBM has a working relationship with the Wild Coast Abalone Farm Consortium and their ranching security component. Operational equipment and infrastructure is available to the MPA management team as a result of this relationship.

Maintenance of equipment and infrastructure (3/3)

An approved maintenance schedule is being fully implemented.

Education and awareness programme (1/3)

There is no specific awareness programme in place. The NMBM has embarked on an extensive awareness and compliance programme which has seen the erection and replacement of many outdated or vandalised notice boards. Following the erection of compliance boards NMBM have had an increased presence on the coast with the view to more public interactions. Liaison with public bodies and local residents to the area has also been increased.

Neighbours (3/3)

There is regular contact with adjacent land users and a co-operative working relationship has been entered into with the Wild Coast Abalone Farm Consortium.

Advisory committee (3/3)

An advisory committee has been established under the auspices of the local coastal management forum. The forum is well represented and contributes significantly to the management of the MPA.

Community partners (3/3)

See above.

Commercial Tourism (1/3)

There is contact between the MPA manager and tourism operators in the area but this is confined to regulatory or administrative matters.

Performance evaluation system (0/3)

No performance evaluation system has been established for the MPA.

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**Visitor facilities (2/3)**

The visitor facilities at Sardinia Bay MPA are adequate for the current levels of visitation but could be improved.

Ecological condition assessment (0/3)

The MPA staff is unable to prevent boat-based abalone poaching as the regulations are inappropriate. As a result biodiversity assets within the MPA are being degraded.

Heritage condition assessment (2/3)

There is little or no information available on heritage assets within the MPA, though it is expected that these assets are not being degraded.

Protection systems (2/3)

Access control to the MPA from the adjacent land is adequate as there are suitable by-laws which can be enforced. However, boat and diving access cannot be controlled.

Economic and social benefit assessment (2/3)

Economic and social benefits of the MPA have not been formally assessed but it is presumed a minor benefit is resultant from fishery spillover. Sardinia Bay remains a highly popular destination to residents and over festive and school holiday periods the beach area is filled to capacity. The popularity of the area is also increasing due to the fact that there is an active law enforcement presence.

CHAPTER 8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Institutional framework

8.1.1 DEA: O&C

There have been several challenges faced at both an institutional level and on the ground due to the 2009 division of MCM into DEA: O&C and DAFF. At an institutional level communication between DEA: O&C and DAFF regarding the permitting of activities in MPAs is poor and the relationship between the two departments could be greatly improved. At a ground level several MPAs have lost some of their enforcement capacity as the assistance provided by FCOs, which now fall under DAFF, has diminished.

FCOs are designated by the Minister of DAFF to conduct law enforcement in terms of their mandate under the MLRA. The distribution of FCOs follows that of commercial fisheries and they are based at 23 compliance stations extending between Port Nolloth and Mzamba. The enforcement activities of FCOs have always been focused at slipways and harbours, however in the 2009 report it was noted that in many cases FCOs did provide assistance in the enforcement of MLRA provisions within MPAs. In several cases this support has been substantially reduced.

8.1.2 Management agreements and reporting

The signing of management/contractual agreements between MCM and various implementing agencies was reported as major progress in MPA management in 2009. Noted benefits of these agreements included the facilitation of communication and information exchange between the management bodies and MCM through quarterly reports, the allocation of funds for MPA management and the broadening of MPA management activities beyond enforcement to include education, monitoring and stakeholder engagement. These agreements have since been amended due to the division of MCM into DAFF and DEA: O&C, and all MPA agreements/contracts have been extended by DEA: O&C on an open-ended basis, however, the content has remained the same. New agreements for the management of Sardinia Bay MPA and the recently proclaimed Amathole MPA have also been signed.

In the case of Sardinia Bay this does represent substantial progress as it has allowed for dedicated MPA staff to be appointed. The nature of the agreement and much of the consequent management capacity is focused largely on enforcement. Given the serious abalone poaching problem experienced at Sardinia Bay this step is understandable. However, it has been noted that available funds and staff numbers are a limiting factor to the management of this MPA. It is therefore recommended that the management objectives be broadened to incorporate monitoring and education.

Communication between MPA management agencies and DEA: O&C is largely limited to the quarterly reports required in terms of the MoUs and MoAs for MPA management. It was indicated that it would be preferable to meet with each MPA manager on a quarterly basis; however it was recognised that this is limited by available funds and time.

8.2 MPA management plans

Management plans for MPAs are critical for enabling proactive management, recognising budget needs and constraints, identifying staff requirements and directing management activities. The previous assessment in 2009 found that several MPAs had no management plans and where management plans were available most were in need of revision. It was indicated that involvement by the manager as well as stakeholders was essential in the planning process.

There are two levels of management planning recognised in this assessment. The first is at a higher strategic level requiring revision approximately every five years (i.e. MPA management plans). These strategic plans are important for understanding the objectives for MPA management and identifying the long-term strategies and budgets needed to meet these objectives. The second and lower level of planning is the annual plan of operation (APO). These plans should be directed by the strategic management plans and must be in keeping with available budgets and capacity. The APO should be used to direct day to day activities and management efficiency should be measured against these.

Most MPAs have strategic management plans; however the majority of these are outdated and in need of revision. It is recommended that the responsible MPA manager must be involved with the revision of the plan and that relevant stakeholders must be consulted. All current research and monitoring undertaken within the MPA must be made available to the drafting team and input from SAHRA must be sought to better understand and manage the heritage components within MPAs.

The degradation of the Goukou estuary within the Stilbaai MPA as a result of poor catchment management highlights the need to integrate planning with other bodies and at the very least ensure all stakeholders are involved in planning processes. Those MPAs with no strategic management plans (i.e. West Coast National Park MPA, Table Mountain National Park MPA, Dwesa-Cwebe MPA, Hluleka MPA and Sardinia Bay MPA) must commence a drafting process as a matter of top priority. The recently compiled management plan for the Pondoland MPA should be used as an example of best practice, though it must be noted that each plan must be tailored to the specific circumstances and needs of each MPA.

Managers of MPAs should then use the strategic management plans to compile APOs and ensure that these link to available budgets. Furthermore APOs should be a requirement of contractual agreements with DEA: O&C. Most of the MPAs did not have APOs. MPA planning has not progressed much since 2009 with the exception of the Pondoland MPA which now provides an example of best practice for planning purposes.

8.3 Input

8.3.1 Staff

It was indicated that there were staffing issues at almost every MPA whether these were temporal during peak holiday season or on an ongoing basis. The MPAs which experience high levels of poaching and other illegal activity are in the most dire need of an expanded work force. In these cases management activities were largely limited to enforcement due to the staff limitation and high levels of non-compliance. In several cases MPA managers have established relationships with external bodies to assist with enforcement.

The primary limitation to the appointment of more staff is inadequate funding. It is recommended that through more effective management planning, staff and budget requirements can be identified. In addition, MPA managers should continue to build relationships with stakeholders and neighbours and where possible investigate how they can contribute to enforcement or other management activities. The establishment of a working agreement between the manager of Sardinia Bay MPA and the Wild Coast Abalone Farm Consortium to assist with enforcement should be seen as an example of best practice.

Most MPA managers indicated that staff require training in MPA management and compliance and law enforcement. Furthermore, hard skills such as skippers training at sea are critical and needed in most MPAs.

In the 2009 assessment, staff shortages were noted as a concern at a few MPAs, however the more pressing concern highlighted in 2009 was that of a deficiency in skills, particularly skipper skills, seamanship and boat maintenance. It was noted that there are no specific courses that can develop these skills and most often they can only be acquired with experience. It was recommended that exchange programmes or mentorship programmes be initiated so to aid in the development of these skills. These issues seem to be an ongoing concern for MPA management

8.3.2 Equipment

In the 2009 assessment it was reported that most of the MPAs had sufficient equipment for management purposes. The 2013 assessment revealed that capital equipment costs are largely not covered in the budget allocations and as such several MPAs lack the funds to replace equipment and infrastructure which is critical to day to day MPA management. Budget needs must be identified and motivated and potential external sponsorships should be investigated where possible.

8.3.3 Budget

The current budgets provided in the MoAs are static and as such do not consider the costs of inflation, do not incorporate an allowance for replacing and purchasing capital items such as vehicles and boats and in most cases are inadequate to appoint a suitable staff base. DEA: O&C needs to review and support increased budget allocation to MPAs.

8.4 MPA management processes

8.4.1 Boundary demarcation

The demarcation of boundaries in most MPAs is an ongoing problem. In some cases boundaries are known; however signage has been sabotaged and the boundaries are often ignored. In other cases, such as Bird Island, Algoa Bay physical demarcation is impractical. Signs should continue to be maintained at slipways and harbours in close proximity to the MPA and, where suitable, beacons should be erected. A supplementary means, used by De Hoop, has been to publish the co-ordinates in local newspapers.

8.4.2 Enforcement

In 2009 it was indicated that enforcement activities were hampered by staff shortages, skipper availability, writing skills of staff and varied levels of tolerance by staff for illegal activities and most MPA managers indicated that the judicial system was “failing them” through the lack of acknowledgement by the system of the seriousness of poaching and the low penalties for contraventions.

In 2013 it was revealed that enforcement activities in most MPAs are still hindered by too few and/or poorly trained staff which is largely a result of inadequate funds. In some MPAs enforcement activities have been enhanced through partnerships with organisations such as DAFF Compliance, the SAPS Water-wing, Wild Coast Abalone Farm Consortium, the City of Cape Town and neighbourhood watches. An increased staff component and improved compliance training would assist in further enforcement effectiveness.

In some cases, such as Sardinia Bay MPA, the lack of appropriate regulations severely hinders enforcement. The need for regulations for diving and boat use in MPAs must be reviewed especially in those MPAs where boat-based poaching poses a serious threat.

Similar to the 2009 findings, morale would be boosted and enforcement efficiency greatly improved if the judiciary became more aware of MPA issues and if all necessary enforcement actions were supported at the highest governmental levels without discrimination between law breakers. It is recommended that a judiciary awareness programme for courts dealing with MPA issues should be developed and implemented.

8.4.3 Monitoring and adaptive management

Monitoring has improved somewhat since the 2009 assessment with many MPAs now having a monitoring programme or at least a list of monitoring and research priorities. However the implementation of such programmes has to a certain extent been limited by staff capacity in some of the MPAs. Research activities are conducted by external institutions in most MPAs. In most cases this research has been fed back into management. Where staff capacity issues pose a limitation to monitoring within the MPA it is recommended that MPA managers work together with research institutes and DEA: O&C scientists to identify research priorities within the MPA and ensure that the results of projects conducted within the MPA are used to inform management decisions. CapeNature is in the process of developing MoUs with the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and NMMU to enable the continued research and monitoring in Betty's Bay MPA and Robberg MPA respectively as the current staff do not have the capacity to undertake this component of work.

Systems to monitor management performance have been implemented by SANParks, CapeNature, ECPTA and EKZNW. SANParks assess management against a set of key performance areas while CapeNature have developed their own MPA audit system and ECPTA completes the METT annually. EKZNW ensures that the MPAs are assessed twice a year by scientific services and performance is measured through the use of key performance areas. It is recommended that the City of Cape Town and Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality implement

similar systems to track management efficiency. In addition to these systems, a state of MPA management assessment is now completed every three to five years by an independent body appointed jointly by DEA and WWF-SA.

8.4.4 Public education and awareness

Education and awareness programmes at most MPAs are similar to those from 2009, being largely ad hoc and limited to key days such as marine week and the coastal clean-up. Similar to monitoring, educational activities have largely been limited by the availability of staff. Where staffing is an issue it is recommended that support be sought from volunteers or honorary officers to help implement an educational programme. Aliwal Shoal MPA has ensured that education and awareness programmes are implemented on a continual basis through the use of 14 honorary officers.

In a few MPAs, where funding has been made available to support outreach or education officers or where staff availability has not been a hindrance, educational programmes directed at school children have been implemented. These programmes targeting schools are essential for educating children and instilling a passion for the environment and conservation in the next generation; however adult programmes, especially those targeting resource users, are equally important. Programmes need to be designed for adults and customised based on the group type and education level. Key engagement with local teachers could also prove to be effective in generating local community support.

8.4.5 Interaction with stakeholders and communities

There has been an improvement in the levels of interaction with stakeholders and communities since the 2009 assessment. Several MPA management teams are effectively making use of park forums or coastal committees, established under the Integrated Coast Management Act, to communicate and effectively interact with stakeholders. However, there are several cases where despite efforts being made by MPA management, higher level interventions are required to effectively engage with local communities where there is ongoing conflict. This is needed particularly in the case of the Table Mountain National Park where SANParks needs support as well as involvement from DEA and DAFF in a manner that it will assist in finding long-term solutions for the ongoing conflict around Hangberg and Ocean View. SANParks are in a difficult position in dealing with these communities, as they cannot negotiate long-term solutions to the grievances of these two communities.

Similar challenges between MPA authorities and local communities and fishers exist in the Dwesa-Cwebe and West Coast National Park MPAs. While progress is being made toward resolution of challenges in some MPAs, effective solutions will require a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach and it is critical that both DAFF and DEA are involved in finding solutions and facilitating decisions on these issues.

8.5 Conclusion

MPA management in South Africa has come a long way since the first MPA was gazetted half a century ago and it continues to evolve as new policies and tools are developed. There have been a number of improvements noted in this report around the management effectiveness of specific South African MPAs since the 2009 report. However, much of the progress needed in MPA management effectiveness in South Africa has been limited by several factors, namely; budgets, administrative processes and inadequate regulations.

The availability of skilled MPA staff remains one of the most challenging issues across all MPAs. Human resources are primarily focused on enforcement activities in most MPAs. In MPAs where non-compliance is a major issue and there are too few staff members, other important management functions such as monitoring and education are often overlooked.

Further challenges have been faced both at an administrative level and on the ground as a result of the split of MCM into DAFF and DEA: O&C. The drafting and reviewing of strategic level plans remains an urgent challenge and needs to be prioritised in many MPAs. These plans are required in order to determine and motivate budget requirements. The recently drafted Pondoland MPA management plan is a best practice example for strategic level management planning. A noted deficiency in many MPAs is the lack of APOs. These operational plans are essential for the day to day pro-active management of the MPAs and must be linked to available budgets and staff.

Despite these challenges, there have been noted improvements made since the previous assessment. The development of monitoring programmes by the management authorities, often in collaboration with research institutions, is a step forward despite these programmes not always being implemented due to staff shortages. Another noted improvement is that management effectiveness is now being monitored annually in most MPAs either through the use of KPAs, the METT or other audit systems. Collaborative efforts between MPA staff and stakeholders have enhanced enforcement capabilities and emphasised the importance of stakeholder engagement. The ICMA has provided a new avenue for engaging with stakeholders in the form of coastal committees.

The MPA manager plays a critical role and much of the progress reported in 2013 is due to enthusiastic managers overcoming daunting challenges. Motivation and morale of MPA staff also plays a critical role in management effectiveness. Departmental level support in MPA enforcement and addressing the constant threat to open MPAs to resource utilisation is required to ensure the ongoing enthusiasm and motivation of MPA management staff.

Following the split of MCM into DAFF and DEA: O&, MPA management in South Africa has suffered as new structures and systems needed to be developed and implemented. The new structures are now starting to settle and it is hoped that this stability will enable a strong focus on improving MPA management effectiveness in South Africa. At the same time, the growing recognition of the role of local communities and the willingness of authorities to engage with them in the management of MPA must be considered a very positive development that will hopefully lead to further improvements over the coming years.

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APPENDIX 1: MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS TRACKING TOOL

METT Template

1. Context

1: Context : Where are we now?	Criteria (Select & score <u>one</u> of the following criteria in each section that most closely fits your protected area)	Value	Score	Comments (Justify your selection and or comment on current situation)	Next steps (Identify actions to improve score by next evaluation)
1.1 Legal status		0			
Does the PA have secure permanent conservation legal status in terms of the PAA?	The PA's conservation status is not secured by its current legal status eg Public Open Space, State Forest, Private Nature Reserve, etc.. There is a formal agreement that the PA should be afforded the highest possible legal protection relevant to the authority, but the process has not yet begun.	1			
	The PA is in the process of being afforded the highest possible relevant legal protection.	2			
	The PA has been listed in the National Protected Areas Register in terms of the PAA.	3			
1.2 Protected Area regulations		0			
Are there legal mechanisms in place to control inappropriate activities?	There are no legal mechanisms for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the PA				
	Legal mechanisms for controlling inappropriate land use activities in the PA exist but are not being implemented.	1			
	Legal mechanisms for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the PA exist but there are some problems in effectively implementing them	2			
	Legal mechanisms for controlling inappropriate land use & activities in the PA exist and are being effectively implemented	3			
1.3 Protected Area boundary demarcation		0			
Is the boundary known and appropriately demarcated (e.g. fenced or marked with bollards/posts and sign posted?)	The boundary of the PA is not known by the management authority or local residents/neighbouring land users				
	The boundary of the PA is known by the management authority but is not known by local residents/neighbouring land users	1			
	The boundary of the PA is known by both the management authority and local residents but is not appropriately demarcated	2			
	The boundary of the PA is known by the management authority and local residents and is appropriately demarcated	3			
1.4 Biodiversity Resource inventory		0			
Do you have enough information to manage the biodiversity?	There is little or no information available on critical habitats, species of the PA				
	Information on critical habitats, species is not sufficient to support planning and decision making	1			
	Information on critical habitats, species is sufficient for planning/decision making but the necessary survey work is not being maintained	2			
	Information concerning critical habitats, species of the PA is sufficient to support planning and decision making and is being maintained	3			
1.5 Heritage Resource inventory		0			
Do you have enough information to manage the area?	There is little or no information available on heritage and cultural values of the PA				
	Information on heritage resources and cultural values is not sufficient to support planning and decision making	1			
	Information on heritage resources and cultural values is sufficient for planning/decision making but the necessary survey work is not being maintained	2			
	Information concerning heritage resources and cultural values of the PA is sufficient to support planning and decision making and is being maintained	3			
Subtotal: Context		15	0		

2. Planning

2: Planning: Where do we want to be?	Criteria (Select & score one of the following criteria in each section that most closely fits your protected area)	Value	Score	Comments (Justify your selection and or comment on current situation)	Next steps (Identify actions to improve score by next evaluation)
2.1. Protected area design Is the size and shape of the protected area adequate to achieve the conservation objectives?	Inadequacies in design mean that achieving major management objectives is impossible. No expansion is possible.	0			
	Inadequacies in design mean that achievement of major objectives are constrained to some extent. No expansion is possible.	1			
	Design is not significantly constraining achievement of major objectives, but there is a strategy to improve the design.	2			
	Reserve design features are particularly aiding achievement of major objectives of the PA	3			
2.2 Strategic Management plan (SMP) Is there an approved management plan (compliant with Protected Areas Act) and is it being implemented?	There is no Strategic Management Plan for the PA	0			
	A Strategic Management Plan is being prepared or has been prepared, but is not yet approved.	1			
	An approved Strategic Management Plan exists and is being implemented, but has not been updated/reviewed during the past five years.	2			
	A Strategic Management Plan approved by the Minister/MEC exists. is being implemented & has been updated/reviewed during the past five years	3			
2.3. Conservation Development Framework (CDF) Is there a visitor use zoning system indicating position and nature of operation & visitor infrastructure?	There is no CDF for the PA	0			
	A CDF is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented	1			
	An approved CDF exists but it is only being partially implemented because of funding constraints or other problems	2			
	An approved CDF exists and is being implemented	3			
2.4 Land and water use planning outside of the protected area Does land & water use planning recognise the protected area and the achievement of the objectives?	Adjacent land & water use planning do not take into account the needs of the protected area and is detrimental to the protected area.	0			
	Adjacent land & water use planning do not take into account the needs of the protected area , but activities are not detrimental to the protected area.	1			
	Adjacent land & water use planning partially take into account the long term needs of the protected area.	2			
	Adjacent land & water use planning fully take into account the long term needs of the protected area.	3			
Supplementary items	The planning process allows adequate consultation with key stakeholders in the compilation of the management plan	1			
	There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan	1			
	The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning	1			
	There is a programme for the implementation of the SMP and its costing.	1			
	The terms and conditions of any relevant Biodiversity plan and/or the applicable aspects of the IDP of the local municipality have been taken into account.	1			
Subtotal: Planning		17	0		

3. Inputs

3: Inputs: What do we need?	Criteria (Select & score <u>one</u> of the following criteria in each section that most closely fits your protected area)	Value	Score	Comments (Justify your selection and/or comment on current situation)	Next steps (Identify actions to improve score by next evaluation)
3.1. Research & Monitoring Programme					
Is there a programme of management-orientated research & monitoring that assists managers to manage better?	Research needs have not been identified nor is any research work taking place in the PA	0			
	Research needs have been identified, but other than for ad hoc research, no management orientated research is being done.	1			
	There is considerable research work but only limited "management" orientated research is being done.	2			
	There is considerable research work being undertaken, which is relevant to management needs and monitors the results of management actions.	3			
3.2. Human Resource capacity					
Does the PA have sufficient HR capacity to manage the protected area?	The PA has no HR capacity	0			
	HR capacity is inadequate for critical management activities	1			
	HR capacity is sufficient, but there are deficiencies in necessary skills for critical management activities	2			
	HR capacity and expertise is adequate for management needs	3			
3.3. Current budget					
Is the current budget sufficient?	There is no dedicated budget for the PA	0			
	The available budget is inadequate for basic management needs with a reliance on external funding for essential activities	1			
	The available budget is acceptable, but external funding is required to fully achieve effective management	2			
	The available budget is sufficient and meets the full management needs of the PA without external funding.	3			
3.4. Security of budget					
Is the budget secure?	There is no secure budget	0			
	There is a budget, but it is only available on an ad hoc basis	1			
	The budget is secure and is guaranteed on an annual cycle	2			
	The budget is secure and is guaranteed on a 3-5 year cycle	3			
3.5. Income					
Is income from various sources applied to management of the protected area?	Although fees are theoretically applied there is no collection	0			
	Income is derived, but it goes to a budget outside of the organisation and is not used for protected area management	1			
	Income is derived, but it goes to a central budget inside of the organisation and is not directly for protected area management	2			
	Income is retained within the organisation as is used directly for this and other protected areas.	3			
3.6. Law enforcement					
Has the PA the capacity/resources to enforce regulations & bylaws well enough?	PA has no capacity/resources/support to enforce (arrest & prosecute) regulations & bylaws	0			
	There are major deficiencies in capacity/resources to enforce regulations & bylaws (e.g. lack of skills, no patrol budget)	1			
	PA has acceptable capacity/resources/support to enforce regulations & bylaws but some deficiencies are evident	2			
	PA has excellent capacity/resources/support to enforce regulations & bylaws	3			
Subtotal: Inputs		18	0		

4. Process

4. Process : How do we go about it?	Criteria (Select & score <u>one</u> of the following criteria. In each section that most closely fits your protected area)	Value	Score	Comments (Justify your selection and/or comment on current situation)	Next steps (Identify actions to improve score by next evaluation)
4.1. Annual Plan of Operation (APO) Is there an annual work plan/APO that is approved by the organisation?	No approved/standardised APO exists	0			
	An APO exists but activities are not linked to the PA's Strategic Management Plan's targets	1			
	An APO exists and actions are linked to the PA's Strategic Management Plans' targets.	2			
	An approved APO exists and actions are linked to the PA's Strategic Management Plans' targets.	3			
4.2. Biodiversity Resource management Is the protected area adequately managed (e.g. for fire, invasive species, poaching, sustainable use)?	Management interventions required to maintain biodiversity resources are not known	0			
	Management interventions for active management required to maintain biodiversity resources are known but are not being implemented	1			
	Management interventions for active management required to maintain biodiversity resources are known but are not being fully implemented	2			
	Management interventions for active management required to maintain biodiversity resources are known and are being substantially or fully implemented	3			
Supplementary item	There are management guidelines for the sustainable use of biodiversity resources	1			
4.3 Heritage Resource management Are Heritage resources adequately managed (e.g. maintenance of monuments, cultural sites)?	Requirements for active management of heritage resources have not been assessed	0			
	Requirements for active management of heritage resources are known but are not being addressed	1			
	Requirements for active management of heritage resources are only being partially addressed	2			
	Requirements for active management of heritage resources are substantially or fully addressed.	3			
4.4 HR Management Is there an effective staff management programme in place?	Staff are demotivated. Daily tasks are rarely completed and standard is unacceptable.	0			
	Staff morale is low. Work is carried out to reasonable standards, but constant supervision is required.	1			
	Staff motivation is satisfactory but could be further improved to fully achieve the objectives of management	2			
	Staff morale is high and well equipped for current and anticipated future management needs	3			
4.5. Administrative systems Are the administrative systems supportive of effective management?	Administration systems are poor and significantly undermine effectiveness	0			
	Administration systems are poor and constrain effectiveness	1			
	Administration systems are adequate but could be improved	2			
	Administration systems are excellent and fully support effectiveness	3			
4.6. Operational equipment & infrastructure (as required for operational management purposes, but excluding tourism/visitor facilities)	There is little or no operational equipment & infrastructure	0			
	There is some equipment & infrastructure but these are wholly inadequate	1			
	There is equipment and infrastructure, but still some major gaps that constrain management	2			
	There is adequate operational equipment and infrastructure	3			
4.7 Maintenance of equipment & infrastructure Is equipment & infrastructure (including tourism/visitor facilities) adequately maintained?	There is no maintenance taking place	0			
	There is a Maintenance schedule, but maintenance is taking place to an unsatisfactory standard.	1			
	There is a Maintenance Schedule and maintenance is taking place to a satisfactory standard.	2			
	There is an approved Maintenance Schedule that is being fully implemented to a high standard.	3			
4.8. Education and awareness programme Is there a planned education programme?	There is no education and awareness programme	0			
	There is a limited and ad hoc education and awareness programme, but no overall planning for this	1			
	Community partners contribute to some decisions relating to management via the PA's Advisory Committee	2			

5. Outputs

5: Outputs/Outcomes: What were the results/achievements?	Criteria (Select & score <u>one</u> of the following criteria in each section that most closely fits your protected area)	Value	Score	Comments (Justify your selection and/or comment on current situation)	Next steps (Identify actions to improve score by next evaluation)
5.1. Visitor facilities	There are no visitor facilities and services	0			
Are visitor/tourism facilities good enough and sufficient to prevent damage to the PA?	Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation or are under construction	1			
	Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be improved	2			
	Visitor facilities and services are excellent for current levels of visitation or the nature (sensitivity) of the PA prohibits the development of any visitor services.	3			
Supplementary item	There are active programmes for restoration of degraded areas in the PA and/or associated buffer zone, resultant from visitor use.	1			
5.2 Ecological condition assessment	Important biodiversity and ecological values are being severely degraded	0			
Are the biodiversity assets and values being managed consistent to objectives?	Some biodiversity, ecological values are being severely degraded	1			
	Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded but the most important values have not been significantly impacted	2			
	The management of Biodiversity and ecological values are meeting the set objectives.	3			
Supplementary item	Where applicable is the impact of extractive use of biological resources being monitored?	1			
5.3 Heritage condition assessment	Important heritage assets and values are being severely degraded	0			
Are the Heritage assets and values being managed consistent to objectives?	Some heritage assets and values are being severely degraded	1			
	Some heritage assets and values are being partially degraded but the most important values have not been significantly impacted	2			
	The management of Heritage assets and values is meeting the set objectives.	3			
5.4. Protection systems	Access systems (patrols, permits entry gates etc) are ineffective in controlling access or use of the PA in accordance with designated objectives	0			
Are the available management mechanisms working to control both illegal and legitimate access or use?	Access systems are only partially effective in controlling access or use of the PA in accordance with designated objectives	1			
	Access systems are moderately effective in controlling access or use of the PA in accordance with designated objectives	2			
	Access systems are largely or wholly effective in controlling access or use of the PA in accordance with designated objectives	3			
5.5. Economic and Social benefit assessment	The existence of the PA has reduced the options for economic or social benefits to the local communities	0			
Is the Protected Area providing economic and social benefits to local communities?	The existence of the PA has neither damaged nor benefited the local economy or communities	1			
	There is some flow of economic and social benefits to local communities from the existence of the PA but this is of minor significance to the regional economy	2			
	The PA delivers considerable quantifiable long term community benefits that make a real difference to the lives of local communities	3			
		16	0		

100%
RECYCLED



24

Number of SA's marine protected areas

< 2.3%

Percentage of
global oceans
protected

47%

Percentage of SA's
coastal and marine
habitat types threatened

R33 000 000

Estimated value of
linefish spillover from
MPAs along the Garden
Route coast

3

Number of islands under
CapeNature's management



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and
to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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