



MPA FORUM

South Africa

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2016 MPA Training Completed



Course attendees at Silaka Nature Reserve Eastern Cape

In August 2016 WWF in partnership with DEA O&C presented the WWF developed MPA Managers Introductory 5 day Short course at the ECPTA managed Silaka Nature Reserve. This year's course in August was a special one as an agreement was now in place with NMMU who have registered this course as a short learning

course with their Institution and attendees will be issued with a NMMU certificate on successful completion of the course. The 23 candidates who attended the course were from DEA, ECPTA, NMBM and SANParks, and they all participated in the event facilitated by the two presenters Mr P Fielding and Mr L Sisitka. Students

are now required to complete and submit a post course assignment and after marking all successful candidates will be issued with their NMMU Course certificate. The future plan for this course is to hand it over to NMMU so that they run the course each year with funding supplied by DEA O&C.

Launch of the new MPA Forum website

The MPA Forum Coordinator Mr Robin Adams enlisted the help of two volunteers who worked tirelessly on a project that was started to improve communication between all South Africa's Marine Protected Areas (MPA's). The tool identified to fulfill this need was designing and developing a website for the SA MPA sector where all relevant MPA information is available. Ms Marli Ritter took upon the task of designing the site layout and entering all the content, and Ms Nadia Krige did all the site content editing for the MPA Forum website, which will go live at the MPA Forum in Port Elizabeth on October 27th 2016.

The MPA Forum web site offers visitors an opportunity to explore all South Africa's MPA's and some of the information offered include MPA size, establishment dates, MPA objectives, Legislation, access to management plans, links to MPA's and other marine related sites as well as access to documents of research projects completed in various MPA's.

The site is open for viewing to all and over time it will be updated and developed into a resource tool.

MPA FORUM WEBSITE ACCESS

- Access the MPA Forum website by going to the web address: <http://mpaforum.org.za/>
- Read about all relevant information related to all South Africa's MPA's
- Visit the site and see some of the research that has been completed in SA's MPA's.
- Scroll through our photo Gallery and view the rich biodiversity that is present in our MPA's



Mr Lwazi Ngewu (Right) studied Nature Conservation at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and then started work in November 2006 at the CapeNature managed De Hoop Nature Reserve and MPA as a student. He was then appointed as a Field Ranger working in the De Hoop terrestrial reserve and MPA.

Lwazi's dream was to work in an MPA and while at the De Hoop Reserve he participated in MPA activities

That included boat and coastal foot patrols, Coordinated Water bird Counts (CWAC) intertidal monitoring and gathered data on beached cetaceans.

He wanted to go back and work in the area where he was born in the Eastern Cape to work in an MPA there, but the opportunity just did not appear, and he never stopped talking about this dream. Then in 2015 the De Hoop Nature Reserve acquired an intern through the Groen Sabela Program and his name was Mr. Thembani Namba who was also from the Eastern Cape and as an intern he was required to live on the De Hoop Reserve while completing his internship. Working

together Lwazi and Thembani become friends and while Lwazi was out in the field Thembani when office bound was scouring the internet looking for posts advertised in the Marine Conservation field, so Lwazi utilizing Thembani's skilful computer prowess was able to identify MPA posts as advertised on line.

Lwazi then successfully applied to ECPTA and in June 2015 was appointed as the Nature Conservator to the Dwesa Cwebe MPA, and since his appointment there he has completed the WWF Introductory MPA Managers Course held in Rocky Bay last year.

When contacted he said "I enjoy the hands on management approach at

Dwesa Cwebe MPA and find that ECPTA Management support a community based conservation approach which includes working in collaboration with coastal communities, Municipalities and property associations in running the Reserve and MPA at Dwesa Cwebe through consultation and communication which reduces conflict and builds relations with our neighbours"

Determination, networking and a bit of luck have contributed to the success of Lwazi Ngewu achieving his dream but sadly Thembani Namba completed his internship at De Hoop Nature reserve in December 2015 and returned to the Eastern Cape without achieving his dream of working in a protected area and we wish him all the luck with his future career.

West Coast National Park MPA – Little Known Fact

West Coast National Park Marine Protected Area (WCNP MPA) presents its managers and staff with a unique challenge – the WCNP MPA is made up of five individual MPA's which they have

to ensure are adequately protected and monitored as per the MPA's comprehensive management plan. The MPA's that make up the WCNP MPA network are;

- 1) Langebaan Lagoon MPA
- 2) Sixteen Mile Beach MPA
- 3) Jutten Island MPA,
- 4) Malgas Island MPA
- 5) Markus Island MPA

WHY DO WE HAVE A MPA FORUM?

The reason we have an MPA Forum is to;

1. Improve SA MPA management effectiveness and capacity development.
2. Foster collaboration and information sharing between MPA stakeholders in SA.

3. Implement an integrated, multi stakeholder approach to MPA Governance in Southern Africa.

Through its secretariat and members, the Forum strives to bring together key role players in the South African MPA sector

from Government, Management Agencies, Research Organizations and Academia, NGO's, Coastal Communities and others to improve coordination between stakeholders and support capacity development across the sector.

Currently 0, 5% of South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is formally protected as proclaimed Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

WHAT IS THE RFA?

The Responsible Fisheries Alliance is a group of like-minded organisations working together to ensure that healthy marine ecosystems underpin a robust seafood industry in southern Africa. Formed in 2009, the alliance members continue to contribute resources and time towards the sharing of information, positively affecting responsible fishing while influencing policy and fishery governance.

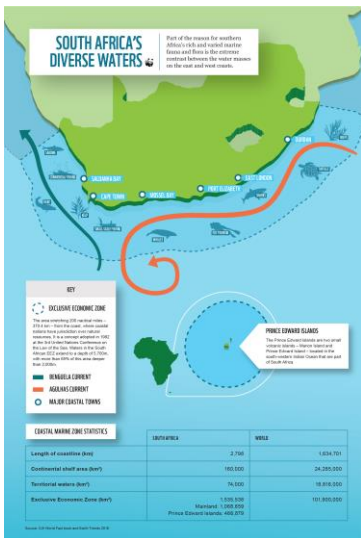
The RFA contributes to the achievement of the following strategic objectives:

1. Promoting and implementing responsible fishing practices through the sharing of information, expertise and the development of competencies
2. Influencing policy and fishery governance
3. Developing skills of fishers and fishery managers to implement an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)
4. Promoting and implementing independent high quality research on the EAF
5. Effective engagement with market mechanisms (e.g. SASSI, MSC and retailers)
6. Positioning responsible fisheries in the public space

RFA website: <http://www.rfalliance.org.za/projects/>.



Launch of Oceans Economy Report



Amidst an audience of over 132 distinguished guests, several journalists and keynote speaker Mr. Trevor Manuel, WWF-South Africa in partnership with Pick 'n Pay launched an exciting and comprehensive report on the South African's ocean economy: facts and futures at the Two Oceans Aquarium. The report, which collates the findings of relevant research from across multiple sectors, offers a snapshot

of the state of South Africa's oceans in 2016. It highlights both the socioeconomic value of the goods and services provided by the ocean and some of the key ecological trends and indicators. The report's ocean scorecard highlights that many of South Africa's marine resources are currently overexploited, which results in a loss of potential food protein, livelihoods and income, as well the loss of the traditional fishing culture associated with South Africa's coastal communities. [Read more...](#)