

Briefing on Marine Spatial Planning

DEA Portfolio Committee 21 June 2017



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What is Marine Spatial Planning in South Africa?

- Marine Spatial Planning is the governance process of collaboratively assessing and managing the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities to achieve economic, social and ecological objectives.
- The shared vision for Marine Spatial Planning in South Africa is:
“A productive, healthy and safe ocean that is accessible, understood, equitably governed and sustainably developed and managed for the benefit of all.”



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Benefits of Marine Spatial Planning

Marine Spatial Planning will provide the following benefits for the South African nation:

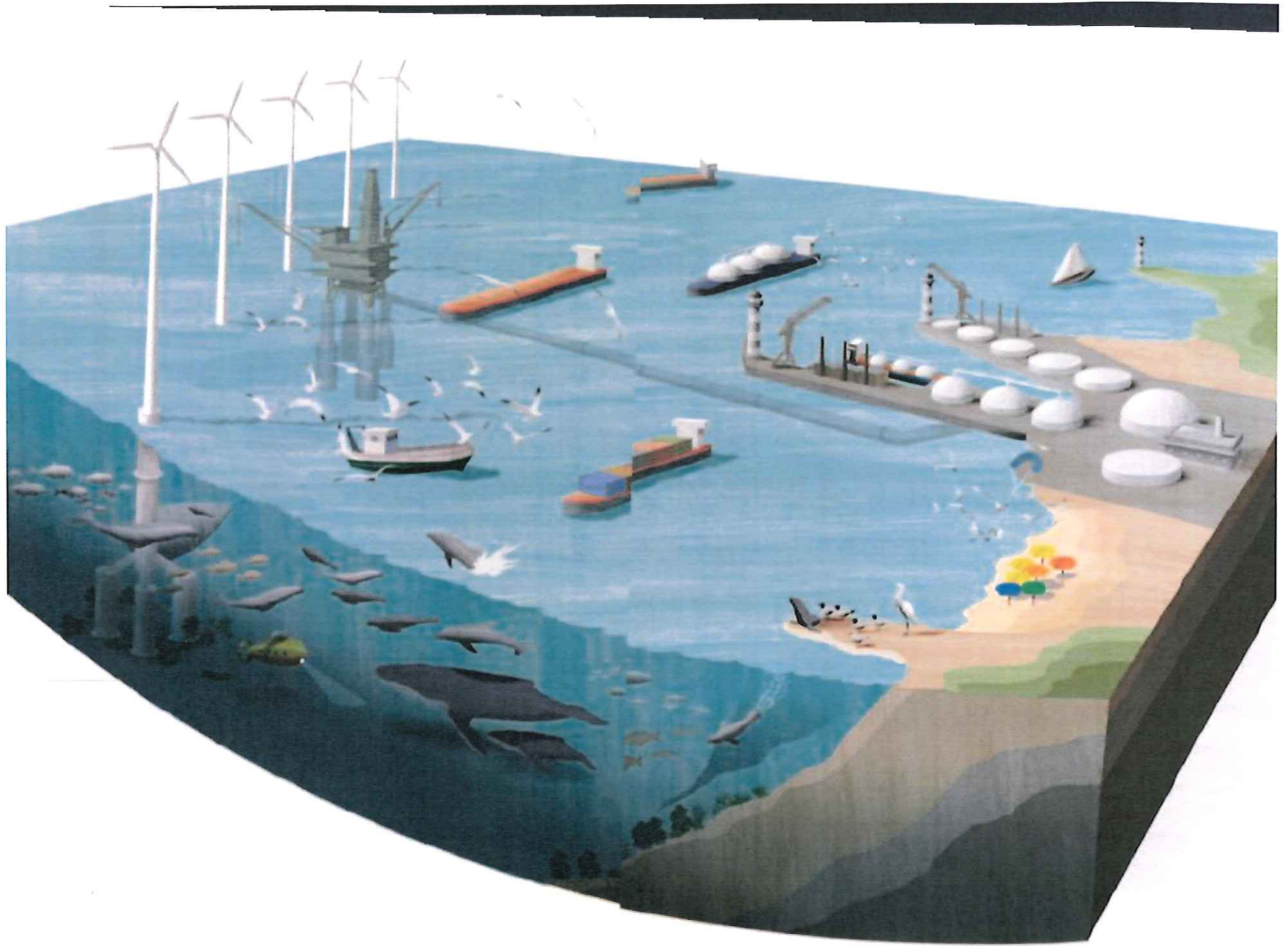
- Facilitate the unlocking of the ocean economy and sustainable ocean economic development;
- Enhance the achievement of societal benefits and strengthen the level of society's interaction with the ocean;
- Promote a healthy marine environment and the sustainable use of marine resources; and
- Contribute to good ocean governance.



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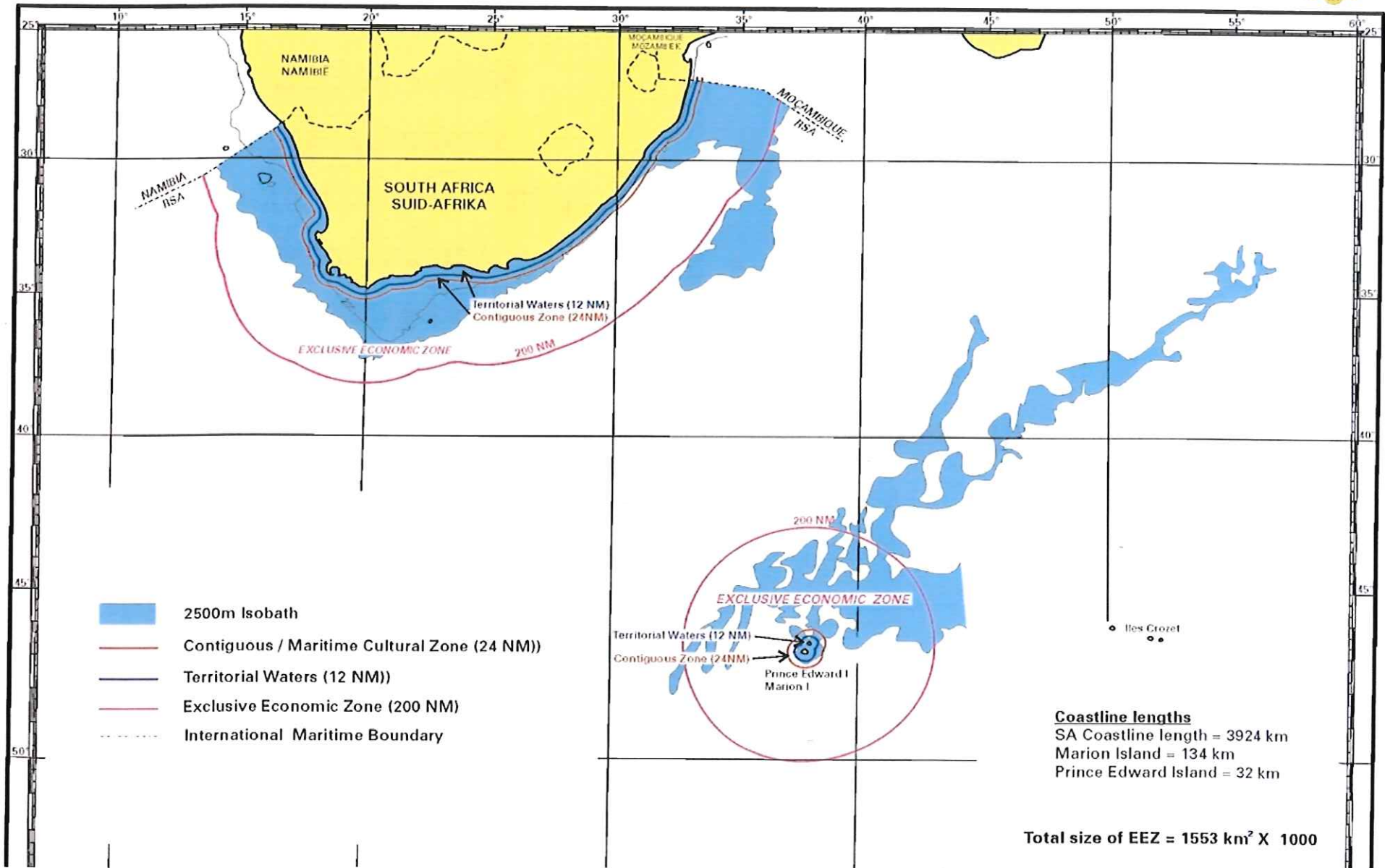
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SOUTH AFRICAN MARITIME BOUNDARIES

MAINLAND AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS



Human Uses in South Africa's Ocean space

The following are the main human use activities in South Africa's ocean space:

- Harvesting of Marine Living Resources
- Marine Transport
- Marine Mining
- Offshore Oil and Gas
- Municipal and Industrial Waste Water Discharge into the Ocean
- Ocean Cultural and Social Use
- Emerging Ocean Resource Usage
 - ✓ Renewable energy
 - ✓ Marine pharmaceuticals
 - ✓ Chemical resources
 - ✓ Seaweed harvesting



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Coordination of the Marine Spatial Planning process in South Africa

- Cabinet has designated the Department of Environmental Affairs as a coordinating Department for MSP in South Africa.
- The DEA has facilitated the establishment of a National Marine Spatial Planning Working Group constituted of representatives from:
 - ✓ The Department of Environmental Affairs;
 - ✓ The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;
 - ✓ The Department of Energy;
 - ✓ The Department of Defence;
 - ✓ The Department of Mineral Resources;
 - ✓ The Department of Tourism;
 - ✓ The Department of Transport; and
 - ✓ Other organs of state as and when required.



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Responsibilities of the NWG MSP

- The National Marine Spatial Planning Working Group will ~~Marine Spatial Planning~~ and steer and oversee the Marine Spatial Planning process.
- This includes having responsibility for the preparation of this National Framework and for the contemplated Marine Area Plans.
- The NWG will provide guidance to the process of developing Marine area plans as outlined in the Draft MSP Bill and MSP Framework.



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Purpose of the South African National Marine Spatial Planning Framework

- The purpose of this document is to provide the framework for Marine Spatial Planning in South Africa's ocean space.
- It provides high-level direction for undertaking Marine Spatial Planning in the context of South African legislation and policies as well as existing planning regimes.
- It describes the process for the preparation of Marine Area Plans and their implementation, in order to ensure consistency in Marine Spatial Planning across the South African ocean space.
- The framework will facilitate the development, implementation, monitoring and revision of Marine Area Plans.
- Through this Marine Spatial Planning system, the sustainable development of South Africa's ocean space will be enabled.

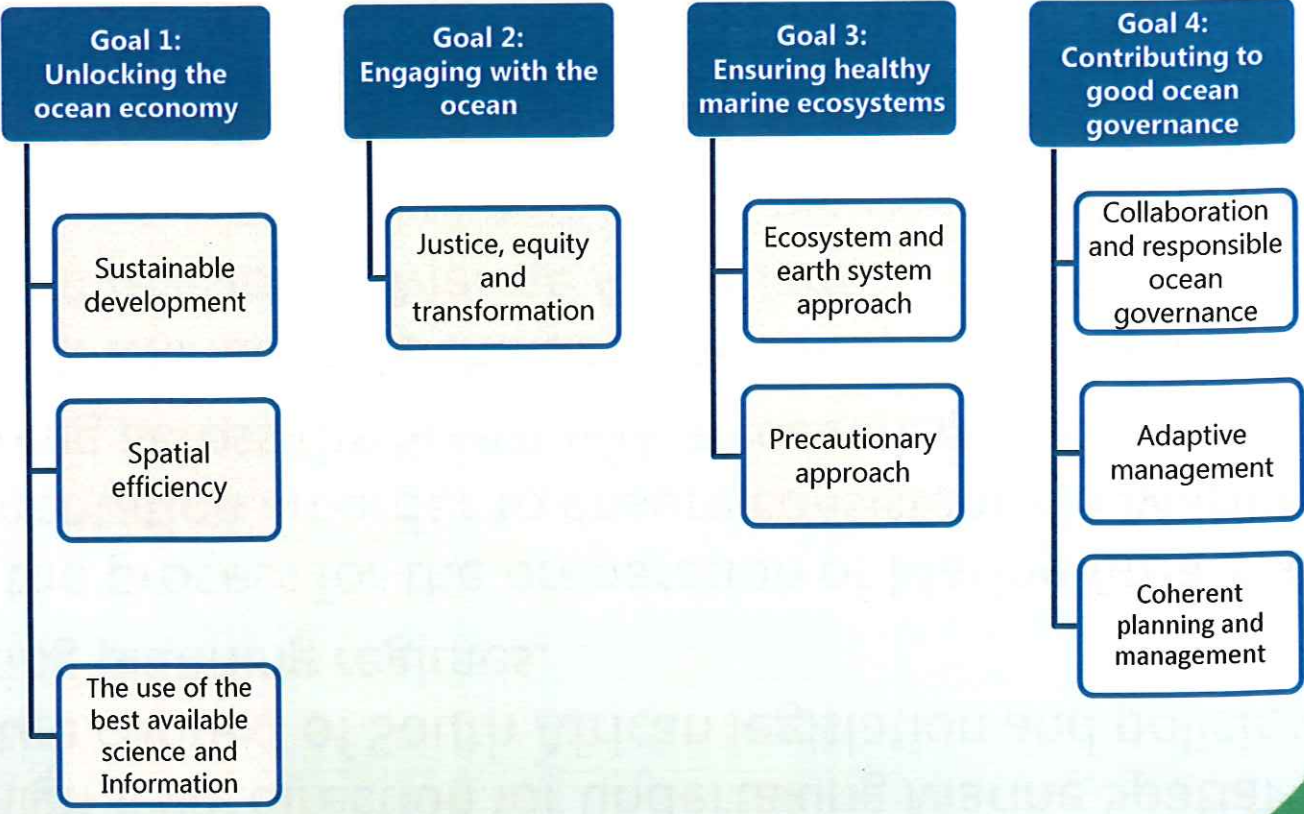


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The Relationship between Planning Goals and Principles



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Legislative context

The need to introduce and implement Marine Spatial Planning in South Africa is derived from this legislative context and the need for a workable framework to implement our laws. South Africa is also a signatory to several international declarations, treaties, conventions and agreements that have informed some of the current legislation. The Marine Spatial Planning process in South Africa takes its tune from :

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 particularly with reference to ;
 - ✓ Section 41 of Chapter 3 of Constitution referring to the principles of cooperative governance and intergovernmental relations;
 - ✓ Section 24 of the Constitution relating to the environmental right;



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Developing Marine Area Plans: Marine Areas

- For the purposes of operationalizing Marine Spatial Planning and making it manageable and sufficiently relevant for detailed planning, South Africa's ocean space will be divided into smaller Marine Areas which will serve as planning units.
- Four broad marine areas are contemplated:
 - ✓ Agulhas current area
 - ✓ Benguela current area
 - ✓ Intermixing area between Agulhas and Benguela areas
 - ✓ Prince Edward Island Group



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MSP data gathering

- As a preliminary measure to preparing the Marine Area Plans, a data-gathering activity relating to the whole of South African marine territory will be conducted.
- This is because data that will be called upon for each plan is unlikely to relate only to the four marine areas, and may cover larger areas, possibly at a national or supra-national scale.
- An inventory will be drawn up listing the issues for which data will be sought. Consideration will be given to at least the following categories of information:
 - ✓ Environmental conditions and assets;
 - ✓ Geological, oceanographic, chemical and other physical features, such as seabed geology, bathymetry, currents, and up-welling areas;
 - ✓ Important biological and ecological areas, such as habitats, areas of important and vulnerable species and high biodiversity, spawning areas, migration routes, etc.;



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Marine Area Plan process:

Reviewing and approving the plan

- Consultation responses will be collated in a report to be presented to the Working Group.
- Consideration will be given to revising the plan in line with consultation comments and suggestions; this will include cross-departmental discussion both within and outside of the National Working Group to resolve any conflicts that may arise at this stage.
- A revised version of the plan will then be prepared for agreement within the National Working Group.
- In addition to the points covered in the draft plan, the final plan will include a full implementation plan, setting out the management actions needed to achieve the MSP objectives and the bodies that will have responsibility for these actions.
- The revised plan, agreed by the National Working Group, will then be submitted for final approval by the Ministerial Committee on Marine Spatial Planning.



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Marine Area Plan process: Implementing the plan

- The National Working Group will oversee implementation of the plan.
- Implementation of the plan's provisions will mostly lie with those organs of state responsible for the regulation of marine activities.
- They will retain their regulatory powers, but will exercise them consistent with the relevant Marine Area Plan.
- To increase the success of compliance and enforcement, it is important that the provisions of the plan are clearly understandable, indicating what needs to be done, by whom and by when.
- The Marine Spatial Planning process will only be effective if it includes effective enforcement. However, this is a long-term process, and may require shifts in behaviour of marine user groups.



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Marine Area Plan process: Monitoring and evaluating the plan

- The National Working Group will establish a process of monitoring the extent to which the plan's provisions are being implemented.
- This will include determining whether the sectoral regulation of marine activities is being carried out in accordance with the plan.
- A monitoring schedule will be developed, setting out the optimal parameters that will need to be observed in order to ensure proper coverage of the plan. Key performance indicators and baseline data will have been identified in the plan for monitoring purposes and will now be used.



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Marine Area Plan process: Amending the plan

- In line with the principle of adaptability, once the plan has been approved, consideration may be given at any stage to making amendments to it. This may be considered necessary if, for example:
 - ✓ Monitoring and evaluating the plan brings to light any shortfall in the plan's performance;
 - ✓ Environmental conditions undergo an unexpected change; and
 - ✓ Opportunities for development unexpectedly diminish or arise
- The NWG will carry out any necessary analysis to support the proposed amendments and propose suitable changes to the plan.
- The proposed amendment will be submitted to the Ministerial Committee on MSP for approval.
- Once approved, amendments will be incorporated into an amended version of the plan, which will be publicised and made fully available.



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Marine Area Plan process:

Revision of the plan

- The steps outlined previously will be a cyclical process, allowing the Marine Area Plans to be revised regularly.
- The revision of each plan will build on the previous version of the plan capitalising on:
 - ✓ Improved data availability
 - ✓ Changes in conditions
 - ✓ Growing experience of integrating sea uses through a range of planning measures and lessons learned from developing a Marine Spatial Planning system for South Africa
- The National Working Group will begin revision of each Marine Area Plan approximately five years after its approval or when deemed necessary by the responsible authorities.
- The revision will follow the normal process for plan preparation, covering a similar length of time.



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Progress and the Way forward

- The Draft MSP Framework was published by the Minister for public comments on the 19th of August 2016 for a period of 30 days;
- Comments were received and collated;
- The final MSP Framework was endorsed by the MSP NWG in January 2017;
- The MSP Framework was gazetted for implementation on 26 May 2017;



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