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South Africa's Policy on National Environmental Management of the Oceans

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Introduction

- Ocean Governance Failures / Challenges have been observed throughout the world
- Several countries are finalizing Ocean management policies
- Oceans policies seek to improve sectoral management of the ocean sector & planning and managing across sectors for accumulated and aggregated impacts



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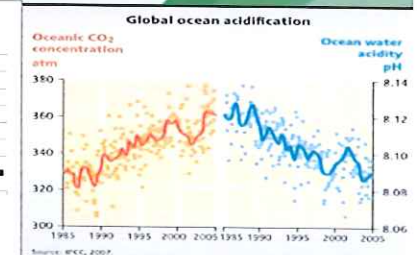
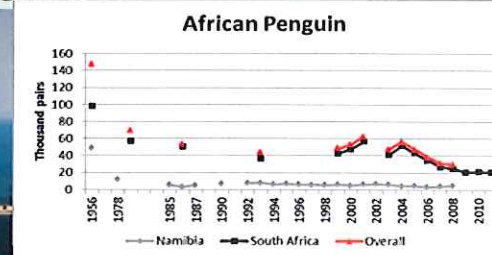


Policy Gap Consequences

- Oil Spill
 - Gulf of Mexico – SA operating in the same policy vacuum as USA
- Coastal Storms & tsunami sensitivity
 - no risk atlas available
- National information atlas/archives
 - E.g. existing and new shipping routes, fishing grounds, mining areas; coral reefs, coelacanths sensitivity to climate change: sea temperature rise; ocean acidification

the following are all human! - but human

not human etc



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1st discovered in SA ~ 1957 after think it was extinct. Caught ~ Tshekomoona north. Scientists had to renew their names.

DEA ocean mandate

- S24 SA Constitution
- NEMA: Framework and associated supporting legislation.
- Sectoral Management Strategies
- White Paper: Coordinated sectoral management



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Policy Development

2011 - 2012

- 2011-12 Towards developing the policy

Ocean Policies of 12 countries compared

Review of sectoral stakeholders e.g. mining, fishing

Review of international agreements that SA is party to.

Review of National ocean sectoral policy e.g. shipping

Policy drafted

Development of the Benguela Current Convention Text



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Policy Development

2011 - 2012

- Observations

- Sectoral management of ocean users
 - » Function to advance individual interests of sectors: shipping, mining, fishing...
 - » No sector manages accumulate & aggregated impacts across sectors
- Need for coordinated interpretation of policy framework for conservation, protection & sustainable use of the oceans



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The Policy Response

- Describes Environmental Mandate
- Summary existing & emerging uses
 - Describes sector management
- Identifies the need to move from general environmental governance to specific ocean governance
- Demonstrates advantages of cross sectorial planning for sustainable development of the oceans
- Ocean Economic perspective analysis for SA



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Guiding Principles

- The sustainable use and management of ocean resources and ecosystem services in order to benefit present and future generations
- The protection of biodiversity in the ocean environment and the conservation of marine ecosystems
- The application of the precautionary approach to sustainable use and conservation
- The prevention, avoidance and mitigation of pollution and adherence to the polluter pays principle
- The strengthening of human capacity to deal with a changing environment, including the impacts of climate change such as increases in sea-surface temperature, sea-level rise and ocean acidification
- The identification of opportunities which contribute to the development needs of the poor and vulnerable within the population thus ensuring human dignity
- The promotion of collaboration and cooperative governance
- The promotion of an ecosystem and earth system approach to ocean management



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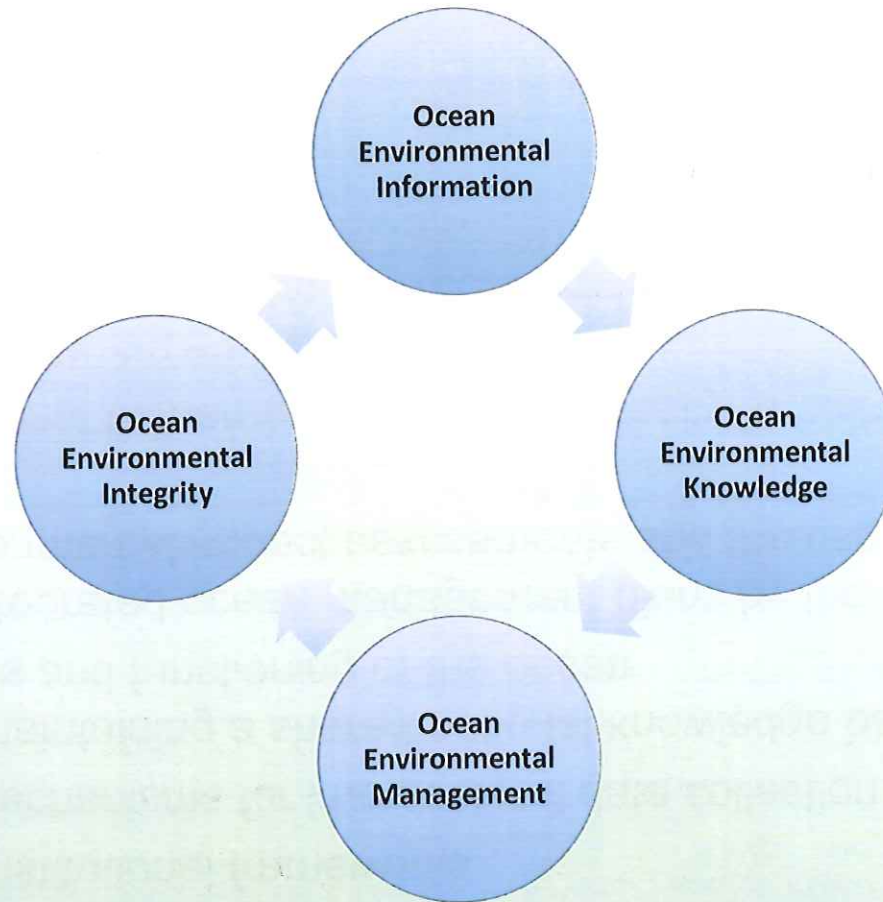


Strategic Objectives

- Coordinating and supporting the implementation of the relevant existing statutory and institutional frameworks *DE A would assist the sectoral efforts in the implementation of frameworks*
- Establishing mechanisms for intersectoral data collection and sharing
- Creating and maintaining a shared national knowledge base on the human activities, status and functioning of the ocean *so that each sector could have the same info. this would well in India. common work & database*
- Establishing integrated ocean management plans by the undertaking of strategic environmental impact assessments and the use of spatial planning tools *to help to determine what activities would be for where*
- Enhancing national human and technical capacity to better understand and utilise ocean resources and opportunities *to address the issue of critical skills*
- Pursuing regional and international cooperation and governance mechanisms *Indian Ocean Expedition - to see what is useful in the ocean for operation purposes. Curiosity? do not know what is in the ocean.*
67% of the ocean is not managed. Discussion is held on how biodiversity could be guided/queried, and that is represented by states in that area.



Strategic Themes



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1. Ocean Environmental Information *- production of info.*

- Policy Statement 1.1: Ensure improved adherence with the ocean environmental reporting requirements contained in domestic legislation
- Policy Statement 1.2: Enhance existing research and monitoring of ocean ecosystems *Phelise Project has got H_2O quality monitoring. natural*

2. Ocean Environmental Knowledge *conversion of info into knowledge*

- Policy Statement 2.1: Produce information tools to facilitate understanding of the natural functioning of ecosystems and human impact on the ocean environment
- Policy Statement 2.2: Establish, in consultation with role-players, ocean ecosystem thresholds for human health and biodiversity conservation
- Policy Statement 2.3: Provide information to promote sustainable development whilst maintaining the resilience of the ocean

SA has got the capability of doing measurements in the warm ocean (Indian), cold ocean (western cape) and extremely cold (southern cape)



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SECRET



3. Ocean Environmental Management

- Policy Statement 3.1: Provide timeous information on trends and extremes in ecosystem and earth system functioning. *Indonesians, after the tsunami, are now able to anticipate hazardous weather conditions.*
- Policy Statement 3.2: Ensure the conservation, protection and rehabilitation of ocean habitat and species. *Big right whales are now growing @ a rate of 7%. Species can be rehabilitated.*
- Policy Statement 3.3: establish ecosystem and biodiversity management plans in consultation with role-players

4. Ocean Environmental Integrity

- Policy Statement 4.1: Cooperating at a national, regional and international level to advance sustainable ecosystem-based management of the EEZ, High Seas and Antarctica

** 93% of the EEZs have been given out for mining or exploration. Exclusion zones.*

if you want to manage your oceans successfully you need to adhere to rules and in co-operation with neighbouring countries, regionally & internationally.



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Commonality in objectives with other international instruments

- Maintain and improve ecosystem resilience, conserve biodiversity, and habitat
- Improve the competitiveness and effectiveness of activities
- Participate and strengthen their involvement in regional and global ocean fora



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Implementation steps and Way forward

- Presentation to cabinet clusters and cabinet
- Approval of White Paper for publication: 4 Dec 2013
- Legislative review on existing sectoral management
- Cabinet decision: DEA supported by key Departments and National Planning Commission develop an intergrated approach to ocean governance.



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THANKYOU

