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**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

NO. 6049

28 March 2025

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT  
ACT, 2008 (ACT NO. 24 OF 2008)****THE DRAFT NATIONAL COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME 2025**

I, Dr Dion Travers George, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby invite the public to comment on the revised draft National Coastal Management Programme (NCMP) in terms of section 44(2) of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) (ICM Act). A copy of the draft NCMP can be downloaded from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's website: [www.dffe.gov.za/legislation/gazetted\\_notices](http://www.dffe.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices) or can be obtained electronically upon request by email to [mmnwana@dffe.gov.za](mailto:mmnwana@dffe.gov.za). A hard copy can also be obtained from the Department's offices at the address indicated below by prior arrangement with the person indicated for enquiries.

The first NCMP was adopted and implemented from 2015. The NCMP is a statutory instrument required by the ICM Act. The primary purpose of the NCMP is to provide an integrated, co-ordinated and uniform approach to coastal management in the Republic by organs of state in all spheres of government, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and local communities. It is one of the most powerful integration tools provided by the ICM Act and represents the national government's commitment to a suite of priorities, management objectives and actions with tangible outcomes contributing to the steady achievement of the national vision for coastal management.

Some of the revisions to the NCMP include:

- update of the Implementation Plan: 2025-2030
- streamlining of priorities and actions for coastal management in South Africa
- the inclusion of State of the Coast Indicators for future reporting; and
- enhanced guidance to coastal provinces and municipalities for alignment and consistency between the municipal, provincial and national programmes.

Members of the public are invited to submit written representations on or objections to the draft programme within 30 days after the publication of this notice in the Gazette or advertisement in the newspaper, whichever is the later date. Written representations received after this may be disregarded.

All representations must be submitted in writing to the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Branch: Oceans and Coasts.

**By hand:** The Deputy Director-General  
**Attention:** Ms Makwarela Mnwana  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
Branch: Oceans and Coasts  
East Pier Building No. 2, East Pier Road  
V&A Waterfront, Cape Town  
8000

**By e-mail:** [mmnwana@dffe.gov.za](mailto:mmnwana@dffe.gov.za)

Enquiries: Ms Makwarela Mnwana on 072 034 6698.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013). Comments received and responses to those comments are collated into a comments and response report which will be made available to the public as part of the consultation process. If you have any objection to your name being made publicly available in the comments and responses report, that objection should be highlighted in bold as part of the comments submitted.



**DR DION TRAVERS GEORGE**  
**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**



# THE NATIONAL COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME OF SOUTH AFRICA

**2025–2030**

Ensuring a Sustainable Coastal  
Future



**forestry, fisheries  
& the environment**

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# THE NATIONAL COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME OF SOUTH AFRICA: 2025-2030

*Draft: January 2025*

*Published by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the  
Environment*



**forestry, fisheries  
& the environment**

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**





## DISCLAIMER

This document represents an update to the original National Coastal Management Programme, and as such, still upholds the vision, principles and core objectives of the original Programme. This document does not in any way have legal authority or take precedence over the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) (ICM Act) nor does it purport to stand in the place of or substitute any of the wording and provisions of the ICM Act. The ICM Act remains the final and legal authority on Integrated Coastal Management in South Africa. However, please note that Acts of Parliament are occasionally amended, and the reader is advised to consider the latest version of any Act referred to in this document.

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# THE NATIONAL VISION:

*We, the people of South Africa, celebrate the diversity, beauty and richness of our coast and seek an equitable balance of opportunities and benefits throughout it.*

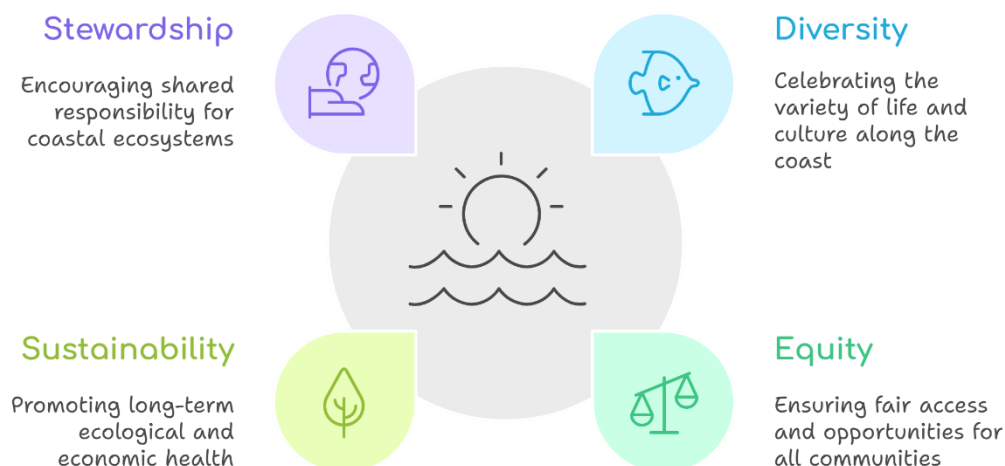
*We strive for sustainable coastal development – involving a balance between material prosperity, social development, cultural values, spiritual fulfilment and ecological integrity, in the interests of all South Africans.*

*We strive for a time when all South Africans recognise that the coast is ours to enjoy in a spirit of community. We recognize that access to our coastal public property is a fundamental right of all South African citizens, and we commit to removing historical barriers and facilitating equitable coastal access for all communities.*

*We look forward to a time when all South Africans assume shared responsibility for maintaining the health, diversity and productivity of coastal ecosystems in a spirit of stewardship and caring.*

*We seek to guide the management of our coast in a way that benefits current and future generations and honours our obligations and undertakings from local to global levels.*

## Vision for South Africa's Coast







## MINISTER'S FOREWORD

South Africa's democratic journey has been mirrored in our evolving approach to coastal management. In the quarter-century since our transition to democracy, we have witnessed a profound improvement in how we view, value, and protect our coastal heritage. This evolution has culminated in sophisticated legal frameworks that acknowledge the intricate relationships between ecological sustainability, social justice, and economic development along our coastline.

Our oceans and coasts represent more than just geographic boundaries - they are vital economic corridors, cultural treasures, and ecological lifelines. Globally, these zones face unprecedented pressures, with half the world's population now concentrated in coastal areas and migration trends suggesting further densification. South Africa's response to these complexities must be both visionary and pragmatic.

The 2000 White Paper for Sustainable Coastal Development marked a watershed moment in our young democracy's environmental governance. It laid the foundation for a unified approach to coastal management, directly confronting the fragmentary and inequitable practices of our past. This vision materialised in the groundbreaking ICM Act, later strengthened by its 2014 amendment. This legislation stands as a testament to South Africa's commitment to environmental leadership, pioneering integrated coastal management not just for our nation, but for the African continent.

The ICM Act's power lies in its rejection of siloed management approaches in favour of holistic, integrated solutions. Among its many innovative mechanisms, coastal management programmes (CMPs) emerge as the cornerstone of implementation. These programmes transcend traditional bureaucratic boundaries, embedding coastal considerations into the fabric of governmental planning and decision-making at all levels.

At the apex of this system, stands the National Coastal Management Programme (NCMP), which serves as both compass and catalyst for coastal governance in South Africa. As the principal implementation tool of the ICM Act, it provides the essential framework for cooperative governance and coordinated action across all spheres of government. The NCMP's authority guides and shapes provincial and municipal coastal management programmes, ensuring coherence in our national coastal management effort.

Our vision for South Africa's coast is ambitious yet achievable – a coast that works for all, sustains our communities, and preserves our natural heritage for future generations. The NCMP translates this vision into concrete action through carefully identified priority areas: enhancing coastal access, protecting our estuaries, addressing coastal vulnerability, managing pollution, strengthening enforcement, advancing research, fostering education, and building partnerships.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment remains steadfast in its commitment to this vision. Through the NCMP, we set forth practical, measurable objectives that acknowledge both immediate needs and long-term aspirations. Our approach recognises that effective coastal management requires not just government action, but the active participation of all South Africans in safeguarding our coastal resources.

As we face climate change, increasing urbanisation, and economic development, the NCMP stands as our roadmap to a sustainable coastal future. It embodies our dedication to protecting and enhancing South Africa's coastal zone – not just as an environmental imperative, but as a vital component of our national heritage and future prosperity.



---

**Dr Dion T. George**

**Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the  
Environment**



# LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CARP	Climate Change Adaptation Response Plan
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CML	Coastal Management Line
CMP	Coastal Management Programme
CPP	Coastal Public Property
CPZ	Coastal Protection Zone
CVI	Coastal Vulnerability Index
CWDP	Coastal Waters Discharge Permit
DDM	District Development Model
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

DLRRD/DARLRD Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

DoT	Department of Transport
DPW	Department of Public Works
DsT	Decision Support Tool
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area
eCAS	EMI Case Administration System
EFZ	Estuarine Functional Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMI	Environmental Management Inspector
EMP	Estuarine Management Plan
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HWM	High-Water Mark
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
ICMOrg	Incident Management Organisation
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IMOrg	Incident Management Organisation
LN3	Listing Notice 3
MINTECH	Ministerial Technical Committee
MLRA	Marine Living Resources Act
MPA	Marine Protected Area



MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MTDP	Medium-Term Development Plan
NATJOINTS	National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure
NCC	National Coastal Committee
NCCAS	National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
NCCRP	National Climate Change Response Policy
NCMP	National Coastal Management Programme
NECEIS	National Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Information System
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NEM:PAA	National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOSCP	National Oil Spill Contingency Plan
NPA	National Prosecuting Authority
OCIMS	Ocean and Coastal Information Management System
OECM	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
PCC	Provincial Coastal Committee
SAEON	South African Environmental Observation Network
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SAMSA	South African Maritime Safety Authority
SANSA	South African National Space Agency
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SOC	State of Coast
SPLUMA	Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act
WfC	Working for the Coast



WG7	Working Group 7
WIOSAP	Western Indian Ocean Strategic Action Programme
WWTW	Waste Water Treatment Works



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 44(1) of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) (ICM Act) states that the Minister responsible for environmental affairs must, within four years of the Act taking effect, prepare and adopt a national coastal management programme for managing the coastal zone in the Republic. Section 44 also requires the Minister to review the national coastal management programme every 5 years. The first National Coastal Management Programme was published in 2014. The National Coastal Management Programme (NCMP) 2025-2030 is an update of that plan and embodies South Africa's strategic vision and renewed commitment to integrated coastal management along its 3,592-kilometer coastline. This document builds upon historical achievements while adapting to contemporary complexities and opportunities in coastal management.

South Africa's approach to coastal management has undergone a significant improvement since the advent of democracy, evolving from fragmented management to an integrated, equitable approach. This was anchored in the 2000 White Paper for Sustainable Coastal Development and subsequently implemented through the ICM Act. The programme recognises the coast's multifaceted role as an economic corridor, cultural treasure, and ecological lifeline.

In the international context, the NCMP aligns with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and demonstrates compliance with key international conventions including

Ramsar, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the London Convention and Protocol. Regionally, South Africa plays a leadership role in African coastal management initiatives through active participation in the Nairobi, Abidjan, and Benguela Current Conventions. At the national level, the programme is grounded in the Constitutional framework through section 24, integrating the National Development Plan 2030 and the Medium-Term Development Plan 2024-2029, with implementation facilitated through the District Development Model.

The programme clearly delineates coastal management zones, establishing frameworks for Coastal Public Property and the Coastal Protection Zone while providing comprehensive guidance on High-Water Mark management. This spatial framework enables effective integration of marine and terrestrial planning considerations.

Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined across all spheres of government, with established coordination mechanisms and institutional arrangements ensuring effective implementation at national, provincial, and local levels. The programme builds upon significant achievements, including the expansion of Marine Protected Areas, implementation of coastal management lines, development of estuary management plans, and enhanced public access infrastructure.

However, the NCMP 2025-2030 also acknowledges and addresses current issues facing coastal management. These include climate change impacts, increasing development pressure on coastal ecosystems, resource and capacity constraints, complex stakeholder coordination requirements, rising pollution concerns, and enforcement in remote areas.

To address these, the programme establishes seven strategic priorities: Equitable Public Access, Estuary Management, Coastal Spatial Planning and Climate Change, Coastal Pollution Management, Education, Awareness and Information, Coastal Research, and Compliance and Enforcement. Success in implementing these priorities depends on sustained political commitment, adequate resource allocation, strong institutional coordination, active stakeholder participation, and regular monitoring and adaptation.

The programme outlines a comprehensive resource mobilisation strategy incorporating government allocations, donor funding, private sector investments, and innovative financing mechanisms. A robust monitoring and evaluation framework ensures effective implementation through regular performance assessment and adaptive management approaches.

Provincial and municipal alignment is facilitated through clear guidelines for vertical integration, support mechanisms for local implementation, and coordination frameworks. This ensures coherent implementation across all spheres of government while accommodating local needs and capacities.

The NCMP 2025-2030 represents a comprehensive framework for integrated coastal management in South Africa, emphasising collective effort from all stakeholders while recognising the coast as a national asset requiring careful stewardship. Through continued collaboration, innovation, and dedication to integrated coastal management principles, the programme aims to ensure South Africa's coastal zone remains a source of pride, prosperity, and opportunity for all South Africans, now and in the future. Success will be measured not only

through specific target achievements but through lasting positive impacts on coastal communities and ecosystems.



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# BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, humans have sought out the coast as a desirable place for settlement, livelihoods, recreation, and cultural heritage. Forming a highly dynamic zone of convergence between land and sea, the coastal regions of our planet serve as unique geological, ecological, and biological domains of vital importance to a vast array of terrestrial and aquatic life. These areas represent some of the most productive and diverse ecosystems on critical ecological processes and essential ecosystem services.

South Africa's approximately 3,592 kilometers of coastline, spanning three ocean systems, represents one of our nation's most precious assets. This dynamic interface between land and sea encompasses diverse ecosystems including estuaries, dunes, rocky shores, sandy beaches, and coastal wetlands, each playing a vital role in maintaining ecological balance and supporting human well-being. These coastal systems are indispensable to life itself and contribute significantly to our national prosperity and quality of life.

The coast affects people in multiple and profound ways. Beyond providing spaces for human settlement, recreation, and cultural practices, it serves as:

- A critical source of food security through fisheries and aquaculture

- An economic powerhouse hosting major ports, industries, and tourism infrastructure
- A repository of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
- A source of scientific discovery and educational opportunities
- A provider of essential ecosystem services including coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and water filtration

Furthermore, the coast holds deep spiritual and cultural significance for many South African communities, playing a central role in traditional practices, religious ceremonies, and cultural identity. The restoration and sustainable maintenance of these coastal areas directly affects both the personal and economic well-being of current and future generations of South Africans.

However, our coastal zones face unprecedented complexities in the 21st century:

- Rapid urbanisation and inappropriate coastal development
- Escalating pollution and environmental degradation
- Climate change impacts including sea-level rise and increased storm intensity
- Loss of biodiversity and habitat destruction
- Diminishing public access to the coastline
- Resource overexploitation
- Growing conflicts between competing coastal uses

The advent of democracy in South Africa marked a fundamental shift in coastal management philosophy and practice. This was anchored in several key principles:

- Recognition of the coast as a national asset belonging to all South Africans
- Understanding of coastal zones as distinctive places requiring specialised management
- Acknowledgment of the coast's role as a driver of the national economy
- Commitment to integrated, participatory management approaches
- Recognition of traditional knowledge and cultural values

The White Paper for Sustainable Coastal Development (2000) signalled this paradigm shift, laying the groundwork for a more integrated and equitable approach to coastal management. This was further strengthened by the ICM Act which provided the legislative framework for coordinated coastal governance.



The NCMP represents the operational manifestation of this evolved approach to coastal management. As South Africa's principal policy directive for coastal governance, it serves multiple critical functions:

- Providing strategic direction for integrated coastal management
- Coordinating actions across all spheres of government
- Facilitating engagement with non-governmental organisations, the private sector, and local communities
- Establishing implementation frameworks for priority coastal management initiatives
- Monitoring and evaluating coastal management effectiveness.

Through extensive stakeholder consultation and scientific analysis, the NCMP identifies and addresses key priorities for coastal management, translating policy objectives into actionable



plans. It represents a living document that evolves with our understanding of coastal systems while maintaining steadfast commitment to sustainable and equitable coastal development.





# THE SOUTH AFRICAN COAST: A LEGACY OF CHANGE AND CONVERGENCE

The overarching vision of the South African government is to nurture a nation defined by pride, prosperity, and hope. Within this context, the NCMP advocates for sustainable coastal development – a delicate balance between material prosperity, social development, cultural values, spiritual fulfilment, and ecological integrity, serving the interests of all South Africans.

## Historical Context and Cultural Heritage

South Africa's coastal regions bear testament to a rich tapestry of human settlement and cultural development spanning millennia. Archaeological evidence reveals sophisticated political and material cultures dating back approximately 2000 years, characterised by:

- The coastal-dwelling Khoekhoen pastoralists
- The widely dispersed San hunter-gatherers
- The gradual migration of Bantu-speaking agropastoralists from the eastern lowlands to the Highveld
- The establishment of the first European settlement by the Dutch East India Company in 1652 at Table Bay

- The arrival of British settlers in 1820, bringing diverse skills and professions that would initially shape coastal development

## **The Multi-Dimensional Coastal Environment**

The South African coastal environment represents a complex intersection of multiple domains:

### **1. Economic Sphere**

- Hub of commercial activities and trade
- Source of subsistence livelihoods
- Center of recreational economies
- Maritime transport and logistics gateway
- Focus of tourism development

### **2. Social Sphere**

- Recreational spaces for public enjoyment
- Areas of spiritual and cultural significance
- Communities and settlement patterns
- Educational and research opportunities
- Historical heritage sites

### **3. Biophysical Sphere**

- Dynamic interface of land, sea, and air
- Critical ecological systems (beaches, dunes, rocky headlands, estuaries)
- Biodiversity hotspots
- Essential ecosystem services
- Climate regulation functions

## **Economic Evolution and Coastal Development**

The economic significance of South Africa's coast has evolved through distinct phases:

### ***Historical Development***

- Early coastal mining operations paralleling inland mining developments

- Establishment of primary coastal settlements around extraction activities
- Transition to manufacturing and service industries
- Development and expansion of port infrastructure
- Growing tourism and leisure economies

### ***Contemporary Significance***

- Contribution of approximately R57 billion to GDP (2011 UNOPS estimate)
- Over 35% of national GDP derived from coastal activities
- Continuing coastal migration driven by:
  - Economic opportunities
  - Lifestyle preferences
  - Aesthetic value
  - Cultural significance

### **Current Management Imperatives**

The coastal zone faces multiple pressures:

#### **1. *Demographic and Development Pressures***

- Varying development patterns across coastal provinces
- Increasing urbanisation and infrastructure demands
- Growing competition for coastal resources
- Complex stakeholder interests

#### **2. *Environmental Dynamics***

- Coastal erosion and flooding risks
- Climate change impacts
- Increased frequency and severity of weather events
- Ecosystem vulnerability

#### **3. *Management Considerations***

- Need for coordinated governance
- Balance between development and conservation
- Protection of ecological integrity

- Sustainable resource utilisation
- Preservation of natural beauty
- Enhancement of tourism potential
- Facilitation of access to the coast

## **Future Outlook and Management Approach**

The coast of South Africa represents an area of perpetual change and convergence, requiring:

- Adaptive management strategies
- Iterative policy development
- Balanced approach to development
- Integration of multiple use cases
- Protection of ecological systems
- Consideration of future generations

The NCMP recognizes that effective coastal management must be:

1. Responsive to changing environmental conditions
2. Adaptive to emerging complexities
3. Inclusive of diverse stakeholder interests
4. Supportive of sustainable economic development
5. Protective of natural and cultural heritage
6. Forward-looking in approach

This dynamic management approach aims to guide South Africa's coastal development toward a modernised yet sustainable coastline that maintains ecological integrity while supporting economic growth and social development.





# INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN CONTEXT

South Africa's approach to integrated coastal management (ICM) exists within a complex matrix of international commitments, regional partnerships, and national imperatives. This chapter contextualises ICM within these various spheres of influence and obligations.

## THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by United Nations Member States in 2015, is the Global Sustainable Development Framework and provides the overarching international framework for coastal management. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognise the intrinsic connection between poverty alleviation, economic growth, and environmental protection, particularly concerning oceans and coasts.

South Africa's coastal policy evolution traces back to the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which produced Agenda 21 - a comprehensive blueprint for sustainable development. This foundation was strengthened by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, hosted in South Africa, which reinforced global commitments to environmental protection and poverty eradication.

## *Key International Treaties and Conventions*

### **1. The Ramsar Convention**

- Purpose: Conservation and sustainable use of wetlands
- Key Elements:
  - Designation of Ramsar Sites
  - Wise use principle
  - International cooperation framework
  - Regular reporting requirements

### **2. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

- Core Objectives:
  - Biodiversity conservation
  - Sustainable resource use
  - Equitable benefit-sharing
- Implementation Mechanisms:
  - National strategies and action plans
  - Integration with sectoral policies
  - International cooperation

### **3. The London Convention and Protocol**

- Focus: Prevention of marine pollution
- Key Provisions:
  - Regulation of dumping of waste
  - Protection of marine environments
  - International monitoring framework

### **4. Marine Protected Areas and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD**

- Target: 30% ocean protection by 2030
- Regional Progress:
  - Western Indian Ocean initiatives

- Establishment of new MPAs
- Regional cooperation mechanisms
- Complexities:
  - Funding constraints
  - Enforcement capacity
  - Climate change impacts

## THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

South Africa actively participates in three key regional conventions:

### 1. The Nairobi Convention

- Scope: Western Indian Ocean Region
- Focus: Marine and coastal environment protection

### 2. The Abidjan Convention

- Coverage: Atlantic Coast of West, Central, and Southern Africa
- Purpose: Marine and coastal environment management

### 3. The Benguela Current Convention

- Focus: Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem
- Objective: Sustainable use and conservation

Each convention has developed Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocols, with South Africa playing a leadership role as the first African nation to enact dedicated coastal management legislation.

## THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

### *Constitutional Framework*

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 provides the foundational principles for environmental management through section 24, emphasising:

- The right to an environment not harmful to health and wellbeing
- Protection of the environment for future generations
- Prevention of pollution and ecological degradation
- Promotion of conservation

- Sustainable development

## **THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT ACT**

- Vision for coastal management
- Specific Coastal Management Objectives
- Strategies for achieving these goals
- Performance indicators to measure progress

### *Strategic Alignment*

#### **1. Outcome 10 Delivery**

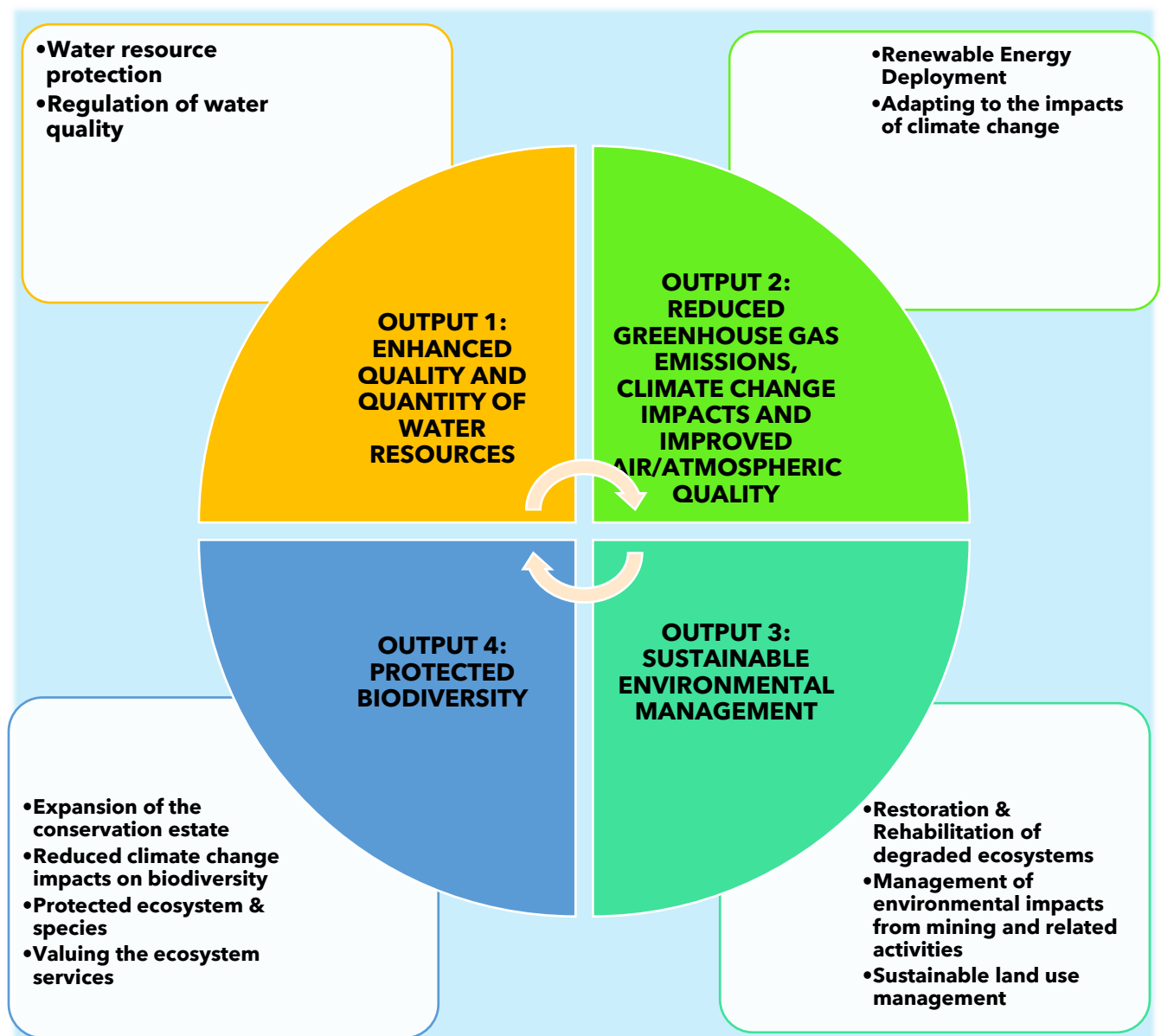
- Environmental asset protection
- Four key outputs:
  - Water resource quality
  - Climate change response
  - Environmental management
  - Biodiversity protection

#### **2. National Development Plan (NDP) 2030**

- Vision: Poverty elimination and inequality reduction
- Environmental sustainability focus
- Low-carbon economy transition

#### **3. Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024-2029**

- Priority 1: Economic Transformation and Job Creation
  - Blue Economy development
  - Sustainable coastal livelihoods
  - Marine resource management
- Priority 2: Building Capable, Ethical and Developmental State
  - Enhanced coastal governance
  - Institutional capacity building
  - Integrated planning frameworks



*1Key sub-outputs that the NCMP will contribute towards for Outcome 10*

- Priority 3: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience
  - Coastal adaptation strategies
  - Ecosystem protection
  - Resource conservation
- Priority 4: Spatial Integration and Local Government
  - Coastal spatial planning
  - Infrastructure development



- Service delivery improvement
- 4. **District Development Model (DDM)**

- Integration of government spheres
- Local development focus
- Community engagement emphasis

### **Key National Mechanisms**

#### **1. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)**

- National Working Group coordination
- Stakeholder engagement
- Data management
- Implementation monitoring

#### **2. Estuary and Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management**

- 42 MPAs
- 290 estuaries
- Task Team coordination
- Scientific support

#### **3. Water Quality Management**

- Regional Task Force participation
- International standards alignment
- Implementation support

#### **4. Incident Management**

- Incident Management Organisation (IMOrg) coordination
- International best practice
- Multi-stakeholder engagement

This integrated approach ensures that South Africa's coastal management efforts align with international obligations while addressing national priorities and local needs. The success of ICM implementation depends on effective coordination across all spheres of government and stakeholder groups, supported by robust policy frameworks and implementation mechanisms.

The President, in the 2019 Presidential Budget Speech (2019), identified the *"pattern of operating in silos"* as a challenge that led to a *"lack of coherence in planning and*

*implementation and has made monitoring and oversight of government's programme difficult". The consequence has been non-optimal delivery of services and diminished impact on the triple Complexities of poverty, inequality and employment. The President further called for the rolling out of "a new integrated district-based approach to addressing our service delivery Complexities [and] localise[d] procurement and job creation, that promotes and supports local businesses, and that involves communities..."*

The District Development Model (DDM) builds on the White Paper on Local Government (1998), which seeks to ensure that *"local government is capacitated and transformed to play a developmental role"*. The White Paper says the developmental local government *"is local government committed to working with citizens and groups within the community to find sustainable ways to meet their social, economic and material needs and improve the quality of their lives"*. Therefore, the model is a practical Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) mechanism to enable all three spheres of government to work together, with communities and stakeholders, to plan, budget and implement in unison.

In so doing, service delivery can also be turned into local level development opportunities, through localised procurement and job creation which promotes and supports local businesses, and that involves communities. This requires national and provincial departments to provide implementation plans and budgets which address local complexities and developmental opportunities whilst aligning with national, regional, continental and global goals and objectives. As such, the NCMP seeks to deliver on the DDM by ensuring that the priority areas and associated projects provide impact and benefit at the district level whereby local level development opportunities and job creation is encouraged.

## **Marine Spatial Planning National Working Group**

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) can be defined as a public process of analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that have been specified through a political process. In South Africa, MSP is governed by the Marine Spatial Planning Act, 2018 (Act No. 16 of 2018). In terms of section 8 of that Act, the MSP National Working Group is tasked with coordinating MSP efforts across various sectors and stakeholders. It plays a critical role in advancing integrated marine management, ensuring sustainable use of marine resources, and protecting marine biodiversity. This includes government departments, industry representatives, environmental organisations, academia, and local communities. The functions of the MSP National Working Group are as follows:

- Developing national policies and guidelines for MSP which are aligned with South Africa's environmental legislation and international commitments.

- Facilitating inclusive stakeholder engagement processes: Gather input and ensure transparency in MSP decision-making.
- Coordinating efforts to gather and manage spatial data: Collect essential data and information for MSP planning and implementation.
- Overseeing the MSP planning process: Involves mapping marine areas, assessing uses and activities, and developing spatial plans that integrate conservation and development objectives.
- Monitoring the implementation of MSP plans: Evaluate their effectiveness and adapt plans as necessary based on new information or changing circumstances (Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, 2022).

MSP in South Africa is also guided by various legislation, including the Marine Living Resources Act, the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (NEM:PAA) which provide some of the primary legal bases for marine resource management and conservation.

## NATIONAL ESTUARY AND MPA TASK GROUP

To date, South Africa has a total of 42 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), 62% of which are coastal and the remainder of the MPAs are offshore. South Africa's +/- 35992km coastline boasts 290 estuaries, which are recognised by NEMA as sensitive, vulnerable, highly dynamic or stressed ecosystems that require specific attention in management and planning procedures, especially whereby they are subjected to significant human resource usage.

Estuaries and Marine Protected Areas Task Team was established to support and advise the MINTECH<sup>1</sup> Working Group 7 for Oceans and Coasts, on estuarine ecosystems, habitats (including blue carbon ecosystems), Marine Protected Areas and conservation management. The functions of the task team are as follows:

- Deliberating on joint planning issues: Address and discuss effective management and conservation measures of marine ecosystems, including estuaries.
- Sharing information: Facilitate the exchange of information related to marine ecosystem management and conservation.
- Coordinating development and implementation of management plans: Ensure alignment with NEM:PAA, the ICM Act, National Estuarine Management Protocol, World Heritage Convention Act (Act No. 49 of 1999), and the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act. (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA)

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<sup>1</sup> The Ministerial Technical Advisory Group (MINTECH) is a collective of technical experts established under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act. advisory body that reports its findings and recommendations to the Ministerial Committee on the Evaluation of Performance (MINMEC). MINTECH plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between national and provincial authorities, ensuring that technical expertise informs decision-making processes in governance.

- Facilitating implementation of multilateral agreements: Coordinate actions and targets relevant to the Oceans and Coasts mandate.
- Contributing to the expansion of MPAs:
- Support the effective management of estuarine ecosystems and habitats based on scientific evidence.
- Capacity building in marine science and planning: Promote capacity-building programs and provide platforms for young scientists and managers to engage in discussions on marine biodiversity issues.

## **REGIONAL TASK FORCE FOR WATER QUALITY**

The Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented a Project entitled 'Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and Activities' (WIOSAP). The Programme has supported various interventions across the region 'to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manage critical coastal and marine ecosystems through the implementation of the agreed WIO-SAP priorities with the support of partnerships at national and regional levels.

Regional Task Forces for the respective components were established to facilitate the achievement of the programme goals and objectives.

The overall responsibility of the Regional Task Force on Water Quality (RTF-WQ) is to support the effective implementation of activities defined in "Component B - Improved water quality focuses on the need for the WIO Region's water quality to attain international standards by the year 2035" of the Programme.

## **INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION**

The South African Interim Incident Management Organisation (IMOrg), under the Department of Transport, plays a crucial role in co-ordinating preparedness and response to all hazards in the marine environment, particularly oil spills, using the internationally recognised Incident Management System (IMS) which was introduced in 2015. By implementing international best practice in incident management, South Africa is proactively preparing to manage marine pollution incidents effectively, by ensuring that the appropriate resources and stakeholders are activated quickly and that the decision-making process is done timeously. The IMOrg comprises experts and professionals from the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), National Disaster Management Centre, Petroleum Agency South Africa, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Department of Mineral Resource, and industry role players.



# THE PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The National Coastal Management Programme (NCMP) serves as the cornerstone policy directive for Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in South Africa, as mandated by the ICM Act. Its fundamental purpose is to establish and maintain an integrated, coordinated, and uniform approach to coastal management across all sectors and spheres of society.

## **Core Mandate and Stakeholder Integration**

The NCMP coordinates and aligns the efforts of:

- National, provincial, and local government departments
- Non-governmental organizations
- Private sector entities
- Local communities
- Research and academic institutions
- Traditional authorities
- Other coastal stakeholders



This inclusive approach ensures comprehensive representation and participation in coastal management decisions, reflecting South Africa's commitment to cooperative governance and participatory democracy.

## **Strategic Framework and Implementation**

The NCMP fulfils multiple strategic functions:

### **1. Policy Implementation**

- Translates the ICM Act requirements into actionable strategies
- Establishes implementation frameworks for coastal management initiatives
- Provides guidance for decision-making at all levels

### **2. Coordination and Alignment**

- Facilitates inter-governmental cooperation
- Promotes cross-sectoral integration
- Harmonizes various coastal management initiatives
- Aligns planning and development activities

### **3. Standard Setting**

- Develops national norms and standards for coastal management
- Establishes best practice guidelines
- Creates frameworks for monitoring and evaluation
- Sets benchmarks for performance assessment

## **Dynamic and Adaptive Nature**

The NCMP embodies an iterative and dynamic approach to coastal management characterized by:

- Regular review and evaluation of priorities
- Adaptive management responses
- Continuous improvement of strategies and interventions
- Flexible responses to changing coastal conditions
- Integration of new knowledge and best practices

This adaptive approach ensures that the Programme remains:

- Relevant to current coastal management needs
- Responsive

- Aligned with international best practices
- Effective in achieving desired outcomes

### **Practical Implementation Framework**

The NCMP provides practical guidance for implementing national coastal management responsibilities through:

- 1. Clear Delineation of Roles**
  - Defines responsibilities across government spheres
  - Establishes accountability frameworks
  - Outlines coordination mechanisms
  - Identifies key implementation agents
- 2. Strategic Priority Setting**
  - Identifies key coastal management priorities
  - Sets timeframes for implementation
  - Allocates resources effectively
  - Establishes monitoring mechanisms
- 3. Implementation Support**
  - Provides technical guidance
  - Facilitates capacity building
  - Promotes knowledge sharing
  - Enables resource mobilization

### **Future Development**

The NCMP acknowledges that certain elements require ongoing development, including:

- Enhanced national strategies
- Updated norms and standards
- New management approaches
- Innovative implementation tools
- Improved monitoring systems
- Provision of guidance, recommendations and best practice for coastal management implementation.

These developments will be pursued through:

- Stakeholder consultation
- Scientific research
- International cooperation
- Local experience and learning
- Adaptive management processes

The NCMP represents more than a static policy document; it serves as a dynamic framework that guides South Africa's approach to coastal management. Through its implementation, the Programme seeks to achieve:

- Sustainable coastal development
- Enhanced coastal governance
- Protected coastal ecosystems
- Equitable access to coastal public property
- Improved stakeholder coordination
- Efficient resource utilization

This living document will continue to evolve, while maintaining its core purpose of enabling effective, integrated coastal management for the benefit of all South Africans.

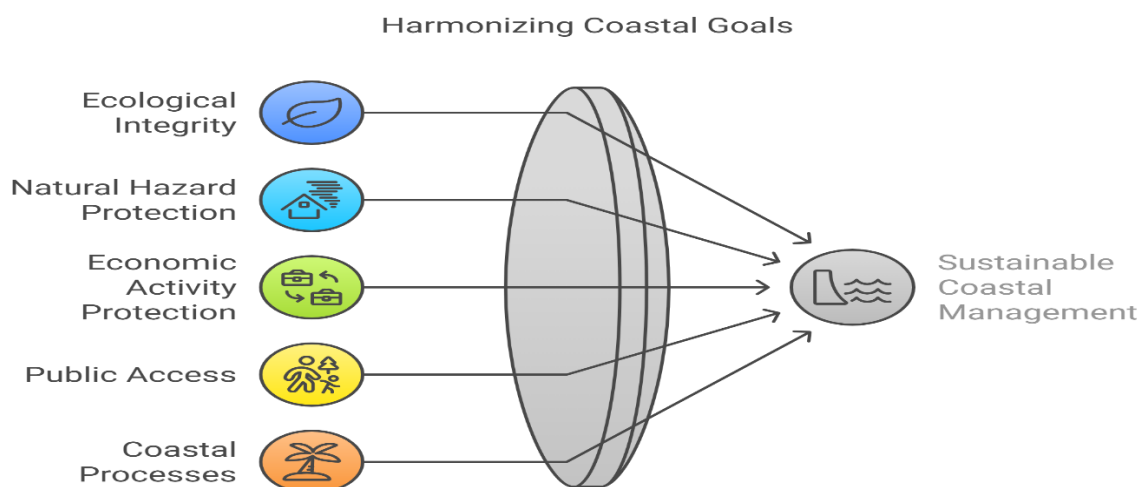


# THE COASTAL ZONE OF SOUTH AFRICA

Integrated coastal management is an enlightened approach to the stewardship of the resources and activities that shape the destiny of our shores. It is not a program that seeks to block progress or stifle innovation, but rather to ensure that these vital forces operate in harmony with the natural world and the communities that rely upon it. At its core, integrated coastal management strives to strike a balance between the demands of development and the needs of the environment, economy, and society. It brings together a diverse array of stakeholders – government agencies, local groups, businesses, and non-governmental organizations – in a collaborative process of decision-making that seeks to chart a course for the coastal zone that is sustainable, responsible, and equitable.

South Africa's coastal zone is a tapestry of life and industry that stretches along its entire shoreline, a ribbon of land and sea that stretches for almost 3592 kilometers. It is a place of extraordinary diversity, home to a staggering array of habitats and species, some of which are found nowhere else on earth. From the sandy beaches to the rocky cliffs, the tidal flats to the dune forests, this is a land of extraordinary natural beauty. But it is also a place of human activity, where the rhythms of commerce and culture have shaped the lives of generations. The coastal zone is a place of economic importance, with tourism, fishing, and shipping all playing a vital role in the region's prosperity. It is also a place of great human density, with cities and towns that hum with the energy of the people who call them home. The coastal zone of South Africa

is a vital part of the country's identity, a place of wonder and opportunity that is both deeply rooted in the past and poised for the future.



In essence, the coastal zone of South Africa is comprised of 2 major components, those being **Coastal Public Property** and the **Coastal Protection Zone**:

## COASTAL PUBLIC PROPERTY

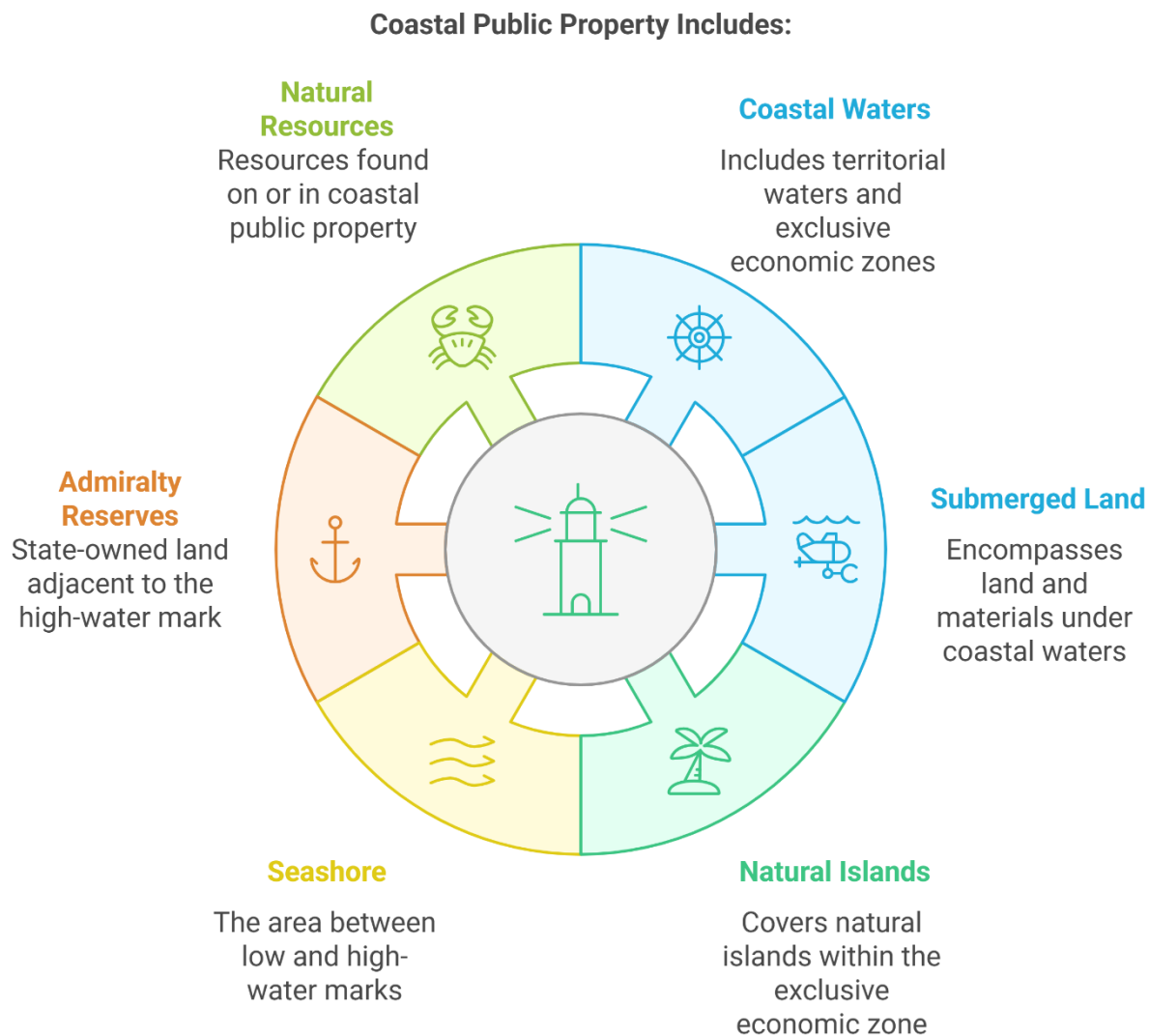
**In terms of section 7 read with section 11 of the ICM Act, CPP** refers to land and water areas that are the property of the public, held in trust to the state and are open to the public for use and enjoyment. Coastal public property is inalienable and cannot be sold, attached or acquired by prescription and rights over it cannot be acquired by prescription. Coastal public property can include a variety of different types of areas, such as beaches, parks, trails, marinas, and wildlife refuges. While not all coastal state lands qualify as CPP, the Minister has the authority to extend the boundaries of CPP further inland if necessary. Some common components of coastal public property may include:

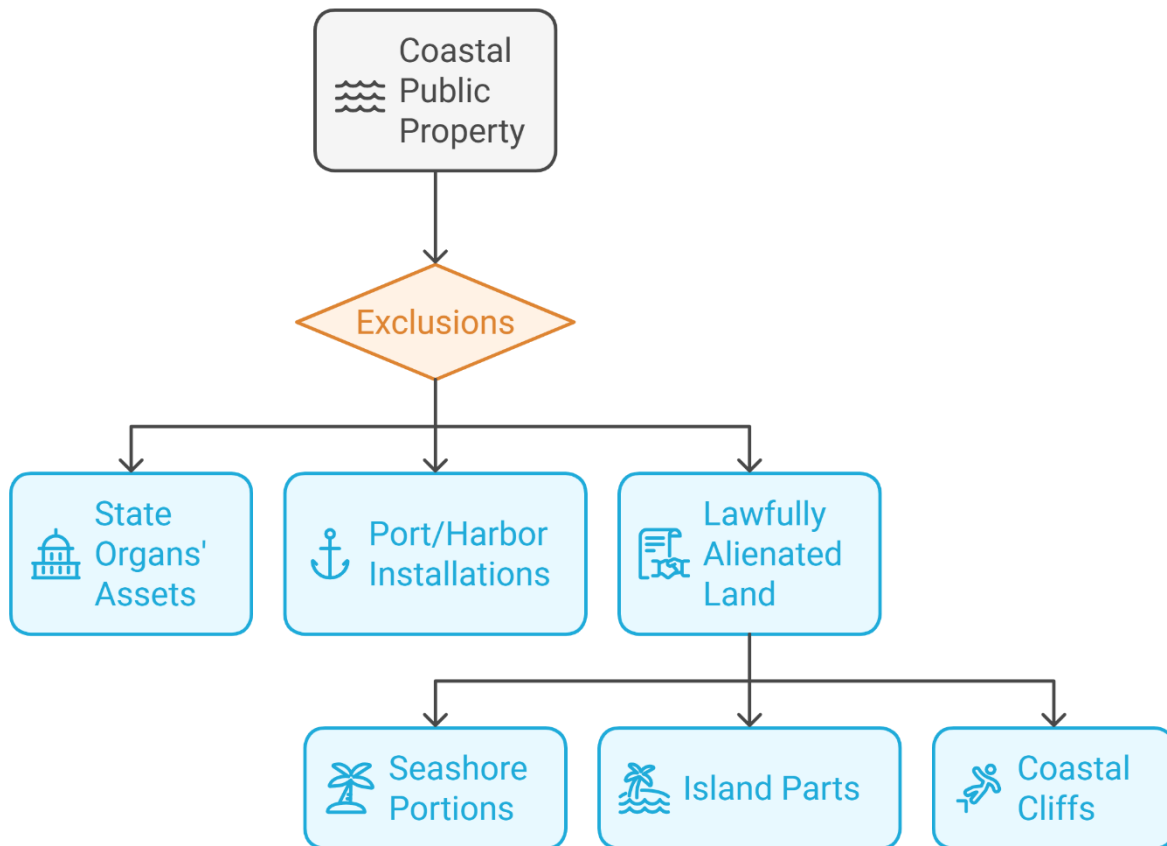
- **Natural features:** Coastal public property often includes natural features such as beaches, dunes, cliffs, and wetlands, which may be protected and managed for their environmental or recreational value.
- **Recreational facilities:** Coastal public property may include facilities for recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, boating, or hiking. These may include lifeguard stations, boat ramps, fishing piers, and picnic areas.
- **Cultural and historical resources:** Coastal public property may include sites of cultural or historical significance, such as historic lighthouses, shipwrecks, or indigenous cultural sites.



- **Educational facilities:** Coastal public property may include facilities such as visitor centers or nature centers, which provide educational opportunities for the public to learn about the coast and its resources.
- **Infrastructure:** Coastal public property may include infrastructure such as roads, parking areas, restrooms, and other amenities that are needed to support public access and use of the area.

In terms of the ICM Act, the CPP has the following components:





## THE COASTAL PROTECTION ZONE

(sections 16 and 17 of the ICM Act)

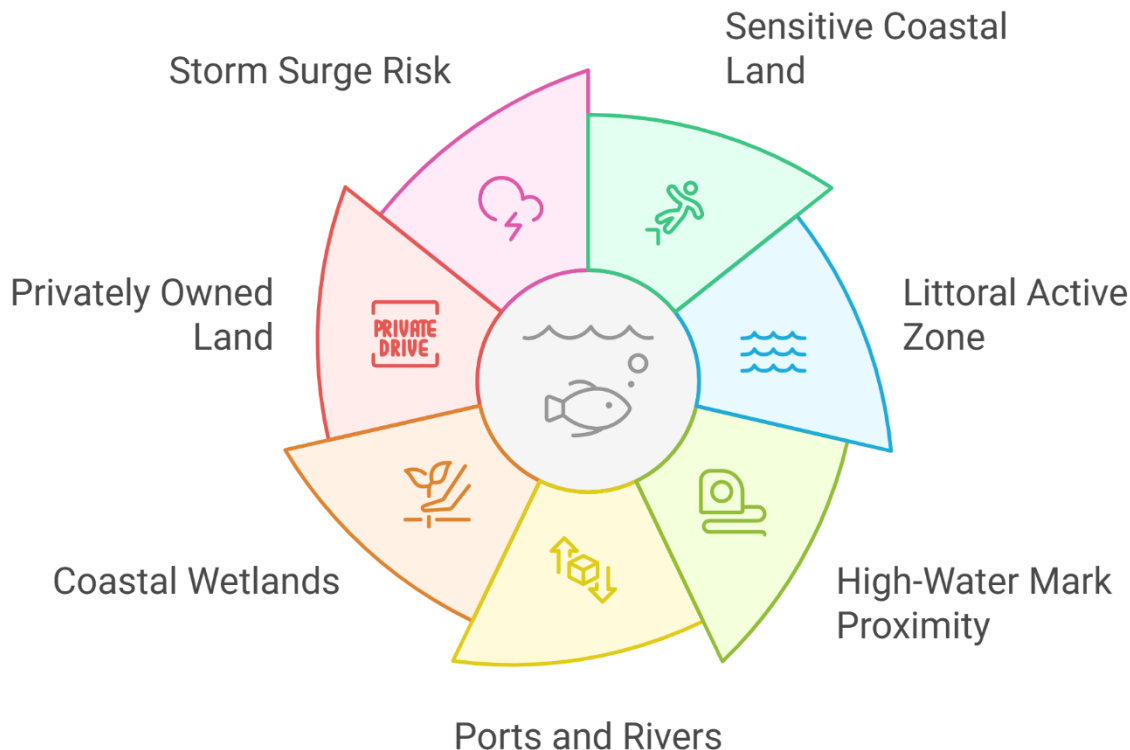
The concept of a CPZ is based on the idea that the coast is vulnerable to a range of hazards and impacts, and that it is important to take proactive measures to protect it. Coastal protection zones are often established in response to specific threats or vulnerabilities, such as the risk of erosion, flooding, or other types of coastal damage.

The need for coastal protection has likely been recognised for as long as humans have lived near the coast. Throughout history, people have taken various measures to protect their communities and resources from the forces of the sea, including building physical structures such as seawalls and building communities farther inland. With the growth of coastal populations and the increasing value of coastal resources, the concept of coastal protection has become more formalized and systematic, with governments and other organizations establishing policies and programs to protect the coast.

The components of the coastal protection zone can vary depending on the specific needs and conditions of the area, but some common elements may include:

- **Natural features:** The coastal protection zone may include natural features such as sand dunes, cliffs, and vegetation, which can help to protect the coast from erosion and storm surge.
- **Structural measures:** The coastal protection zone may include man-made structures such as seawalls, revetments, and breakwaters, which can provide physical protection against coastal hazards.
- **Land-use and other regulations:** The coastal protection zone may include regulations on land use and development in order to minimise the risk of damage to the coast from human activities.
- **Monitoring and management:** The coastal protection zone may include a program of monitoring and management to ensure that the protective measures are effective and to identify any potential problems or issues.

### Components of the Coastal Protection Zone



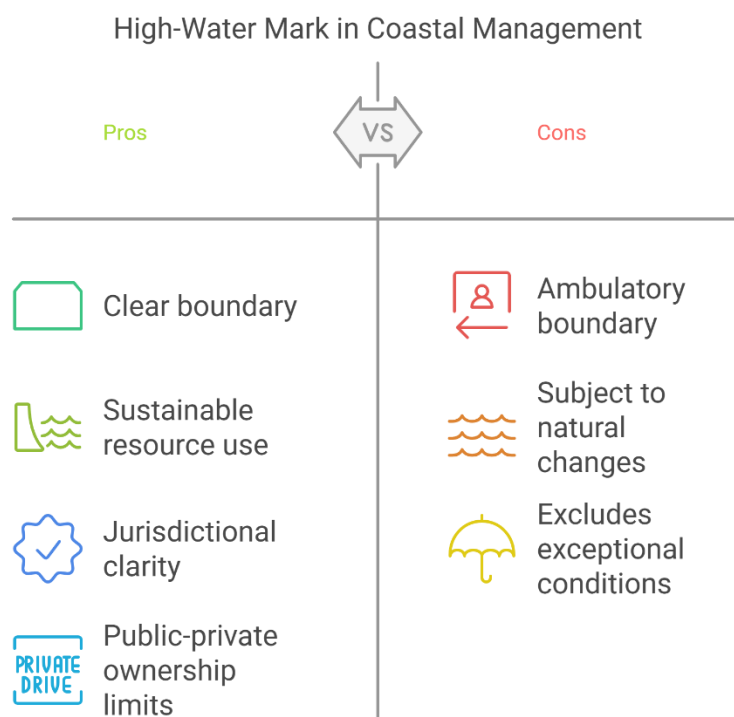
Overall, the components of the coastal protection zone are designed to work together to protect the coast and the communities and resources that depend on it.

## THE HIGH-WATER MARK

Section 1 of the ICM Act defines the **High-Water Mark (HWM)** as the highest line reached by coastal waters but excluding any line reached, (a) as a result of exceptional or abnormal weather or sea conditions; or (b) an estuary being closed to the sea.

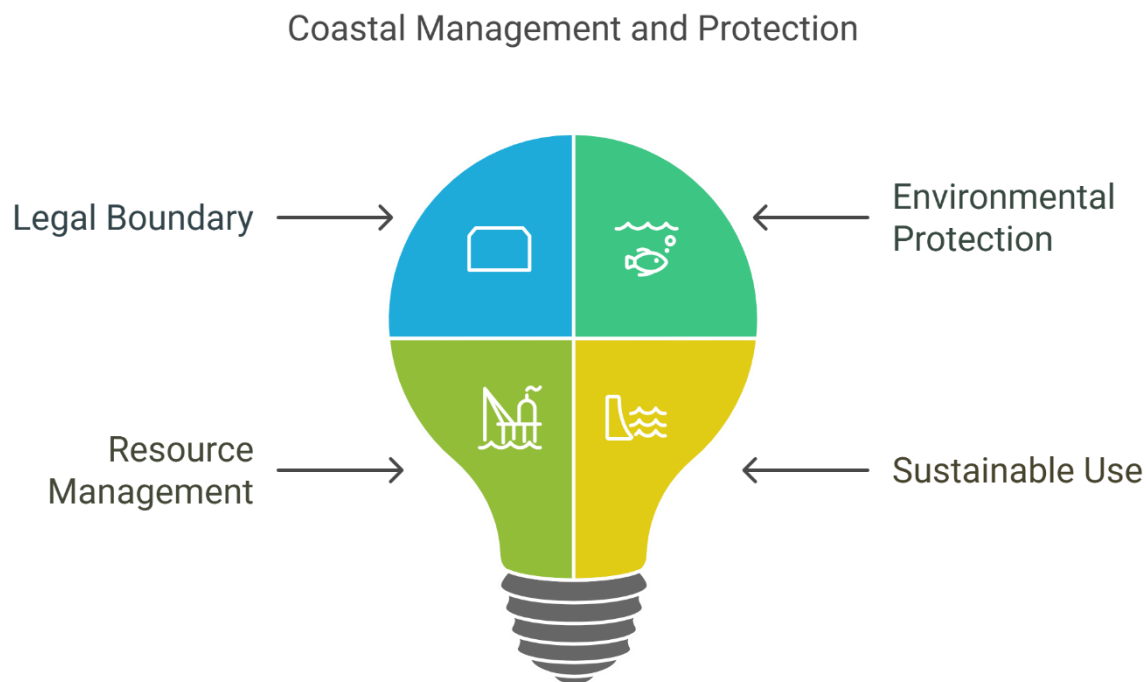
The HWM is an important reference point in environmental management because it represents the boundary between the land and coastal waters, and it is used to determine the extent of the jurisdiction of various regulatory agencies.

Since the HWM is determined by natural factors, it is considered to be an ambulatory and fluid boundary that can change over time. Despite this, it remains a useful and necessary boundary line for coastal management because it allows for the responsible and sustainable use of coastal resources by clearly defining the limits of public and private ownership.



In the South African context, the HWM is used to delineate the legal boundary between the CPP and the CPZ and can be used to identify areas of the coast that are subject to certain restrictions or protection measures. For example, certain activities or developments may be

restricted in areas below the high-water mark in order to protect the coast from environmental damage. In areas without admiralty reserve, high-water mark is also the boundary between the CPP and the CPZ, and it can be used to determine the ownership and management of coastal resources, making it an important tool for managing and protecting the coast, used by a number of countries to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of the coastal environment.



Through effective cooperative governance and collaboration via the dedicated Coastal Spatial Planning Working Group, the DFFE and the DLRRD (formerly known as DALRRD) have been working consistently to provide further clarity over the details relating to HWM determination. As the custodian of all cadastral property and land-rights boundaries, the Chief Surveyor General has developed an advisory note that responds to issues around the practical position of the HWM – please download a copy [HERE](#).



# COASTAL WATERS: EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE, TERRITORIAL WATERS, INTERNAL WATERS AND ESTUARIES

## ZONES

COASTAL PUBLIC PROPERTY: EXTENDS FROM THE  
EEZ/CONTINENTAL SHELF TO THE HIGH-WATER MARK OR  
ADMIRALTY RESERVE BOUNDARY OR BOUNDARY OF ESTUARINE  
INFLUENCE (AS APPLICABLE)

COASTAL PROTECTION ZONE:  
EXTENDS FROM THE HIGH-  
WATER MARK TO 100m INLAND  
FOR URBAN AREAS AND 1000m  
FOR RURAL AREAS

### COMPONENTS OF THE COASTAL PROTECTION ZONE (CPZ)

#### URBAN AREAS

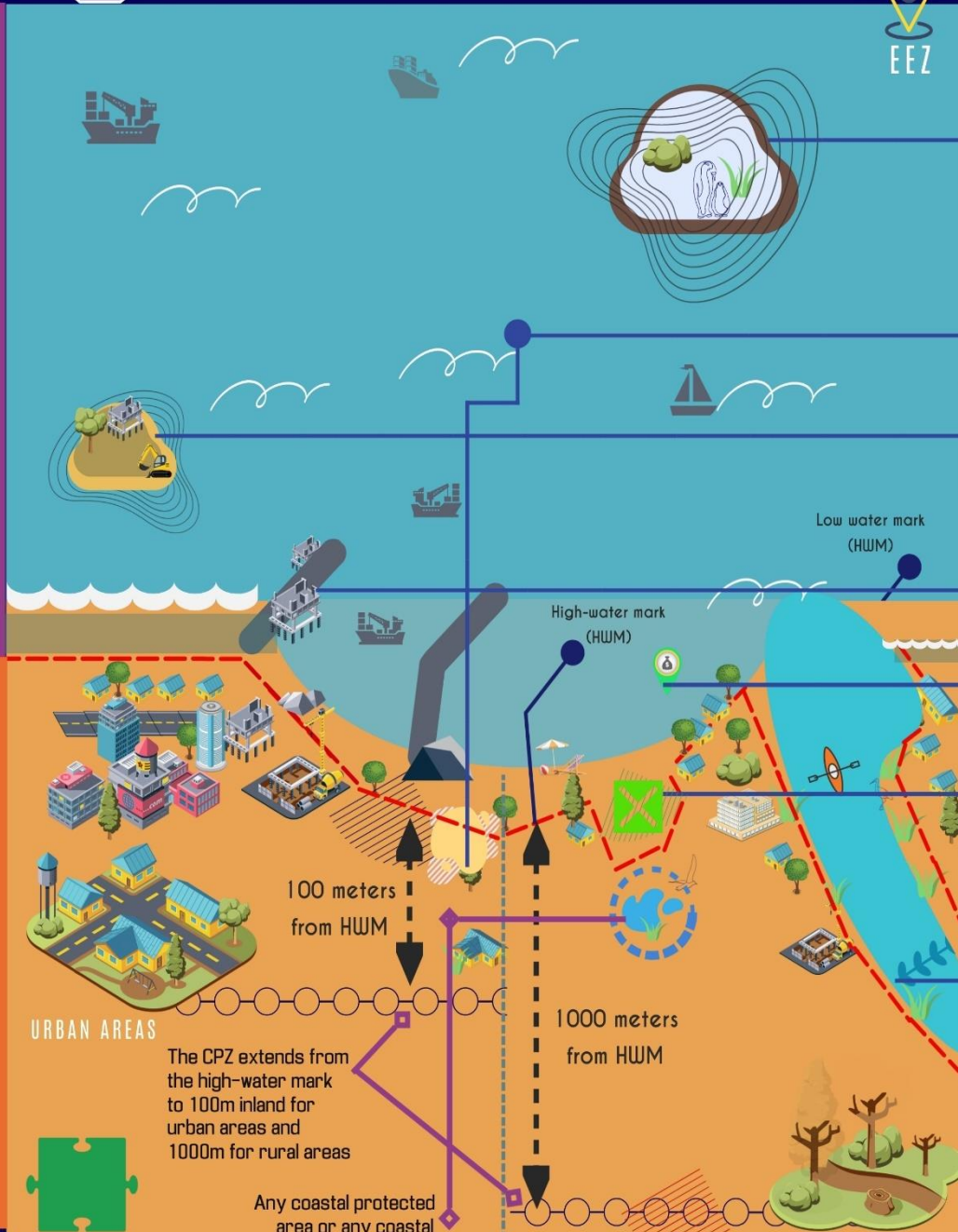
The CPZ extends from  
the high-water mark  
to 100m inland for  
urban areas and  
1000m for rural areas

Any coastal protected  
area or any coastal  
lake, lagoon or dam

Any land unit situated wholly or  
partially within the CPZ

1000 meters  
from HWM

#### RURAL AREAS



The coastal zone extends to the Exclusive Economic  
Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf

EEZ

Low water mark  
(HWM)

High-water mark  
(HWM)

## COMPONENTS OF COASTAL PUBLIC PROPERTY

Includes coastal waters, land  
submerged by coastal waters and  
any natural island within coastal  
waters.

Any part of the littoral active zone  
adjacent to the seashore

Any reclaimed island or reclaimed  
land within coastal waters, including  
its seashore.

CPP DOES NOT include any immovable  
structure, installation or  
infrastructure within a port or  
harbour.

Any natural resources on or in  
Coastal Public Property or any part  
thereof.

Any admiralty reserve owned by  
the state, subject to conditions.

NOTE: The landward boundary of  
admiralty reserve replaces the CPP  
boundary where present.

Estuaries are a component of  
Coastal Public Property and are  
thus also bounded by the high-  
water mark. The landward limit of an  
estuary is the boundary of  
estuarine influence.



# GOVERNMENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ICM

The ICM Act regulates issues which fall within the legislative competency of both national and provincial government in terms of the Constitution. The ICM Act therefore assigns roles and responsibilities to all three spheres of government, with mandatory functions assigned to national, provincial, and local governments that are specifically defined in the Act.

The ICM Act has specific mandatory functions designated to the Minister, MEC and municipalities. In essence, the designations should be interpreted as follows:

Minister	MEC	Municipality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Department responsible for Environmental Affairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provincial lead agency designated by the Premier</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the district municipality; or</li> <li>• the local municipality, by agreement with the district municipality for assignment of implementation of a provision</li> </ul>

ASPECT		RESPONSIBILITIES
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES		
1	<b>The management of coastal public property</b>	Ensuring the state as a public trustee, provides for the protection, management and enhancement of coastal public property as an inalienable area within the coastal zone that belongs to the citizens of South Africa. This is achieved by the Act and then supported by regulations to control the use of coastal public property, determine and adjust the boundaries of coastal public property as deemed appropriate, as well as designation and inclusion of certain portions of state-owned land as coastal public property, to achieve the objectives of the ICM Act.
2	<b>The National Estuarine Management Protocol</b>	Ensure that the National Estuarine Management Protocol is implemented and that each estuary along the SA coast has an Estuarine Management Plan, which meets the minimum requirements as prescribed, in place in collaboration with responsible authorities appointed for Estuary Management Plan (EMP) development and implementation.
3	<b>The National Coastal Committee</b>	Establishment of the National Coastal Committee (NCC) (currently operating as Working Group 7 (WG7)), determination of its powers, and appointing representatives for the Committee.
4	<b>Monitor the appointment of provincial lead agencies</b>	Ensure that provincial lead agencies for ICM are established and functioning on a continual basis.
5	<b>Development and Implementation of the National Coastal Management Programme</b>	Develop an NCMP aligned with the contents of the ICM Act
6	<b>Consistency and alignment between the NCMP and other statutory plans</b>	Ensure that any plan, policy or programme adopted by an organ of state that may affect coastal management is consistent and aligned with the NCMP.
7	<b>Consultation and public participation</b>	Ensure meaningful consultation with government and other coastal stakeholders.
8	<b>Environmental authorisations for coastal activities</b>	Provide inputs where an Environmental Authorisation is required for listed activities in the coastal zone taking into account relevant coastal factors and considerations.
9	<b>Discharge of effluent into coastal waters</b>	Ensure that point source discharges of polluted effluent are effectively assessed, controlled and monitored . To consider applications for coastal waters discharge permits.
10	<b>Dumping of</b>	Prohibit incineration at sea, regulate dumping at sea and ensure that the overall intent of sections 70 and 71 of the ICM Act is understood by stakeholders.



	<b>waste into coastal waters</b>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Emergency dumping at sea</b>	Ensure that consideration is given to emergency situations relating to the dumping of waste at sea and to consider permit applications in this regard.
<b>12</b>	<b>The National Action List</b>	Develop a national action list to provide a mechanism for screening waste and other material on the basis of their potential effect on human health and the marine environment.
<b>13</b>	<b>Determination of national appeals powers</b>	Establish procedures to be followed in determining appeals.
<b>14</b>	<b>Prescribing regulations and fees</b>	Develop regulations for the management of activities within the coastal zone, and consult the Minister of Finance before making any regulations that will entail expenditure of funds in future years, application fees, or regulations imposing fees, costs, or any other charges.
<b>15</b>	<b>General provisions applicable to regulations</b>	Specify general procedures relating to regulations, including penalties for contraventions.
<b>16</b>	<b>Marine protected areas</b>	NEMPAA read with the specific MPA regulations, sets out rules, prohibitions and limitations for MPAs.

#### **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

<b>1</b>	<b>Management of the coastal protection zone</b>	Ensuring the protection, management and enhancement of the coastal protection zone. This is achieved by developing regulations to control the use, determine and adjust the boundaries of the coastal protection zone as deemed appropriate, as well as designation and inclusion of certain portions of provincially controlled state-owned land as coastal public property to achieve the objectives of the ICM Act. This may also include the appointment of voluntary coastal officers.
<b>3</b>	<b>Establishment of coastal management lines</b>	Establish coastal management lines by notice in the Gazette to restrict or prohibit certain activities that may have an adverse effect on the coastal zone.
<b>4</b>	<b>Marking coastal boundaries</b>	The MEC may determine or adjust any coastal boundary related to CPZ, CML and coastal access land. Any boundaries determined or adjusted in terms of section 26 of the ICM Act by the MEC must be communicated to municipalities so that they must include these in zoning maps and / or land use schemes.
<b>5</b>	<b>Designation of provincial lead agencies</b>	In collaboration with the Premier, ensure that provincial lead agencies for coastal management are designated and function effectively to promote and coordinate coastal management within a coastal province.
<b>6</b>	<b>Establishment and functioning of Provincial Coastal Committees</b>	Establishment of the Provincial Coastal Committee (PCC), determination of its powers and appointing representatives for the Committee.
<b>7</b>	<b>Development and Implementation</b>	Develop PCMPs aligned with the contents of requirements of the ICM Act and the standards and principles of the NCMP.

	<b>of PCMPs</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Consistency and alignment between PCMPs and other statutory plans</b>	Ensure that any plan, policy or programme adopted by an organ of state that may affect coastal management is consistent and aligned with PCMPs, which in turn is aligned with the NCMP.
<b>9</b>	<b>Consultation and public participation</b>	Adequate consultation and public participation precede the exercising of a power by the MEC, which the ICM Act requires to be exercised in accordance with section 53 of the ICM Act.
<b>10</b>	<b>Environmental authorisations for coastal activities</b>	Where the province is the competent authority the province must ensure that the factors contained in section 63 of the ICM Act and considered, and that the requirements of this section complied with before an environmental authorisation is issued in terms of Chapter 5 of the NEMA.
<b>11</b>	<b>Implementation of national regulations</b>	Implement national regulations, for example, list public boat launch sites that may be used by the public to access the coastal zone.
<b>12</b>	<b>Regulations by MECs</b>	Develop regulations for the management of activities within the coastal protection zone and specify general procedures relating to regulations, including penalties for contraventions.
<b>13</b>	<b>Information and Reporting on Coastal Matters</b>	Prepare a report on the state of the coastal environment in the province which must contain any information prescribed by the Minister.
<b>14</b>	<b>Co-ordination of actions between provinces and municipalities</b>	Liaise with coastal municipalities in the province to co-ordinate actions taken in terms of this Act by provincial organs of state in the province with actions taken by municipalities.
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT / MUNICIPAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>Access to coastal public property</b>	Ensuring that the public has equitable access to coastal public property by designating coastal access land to promote access to CPP along the coast, withdrawing inappropriate coastal access land and following an environmentally sensitive and socially responsible process in designating coastal access land.
<b>2</b>	<b>Coastal management line demarcation on zoning maps</b>	Delineate coastal management lines in Spatial Development Frameworks and municipal zoning / land use scheme maps (should participate in any provincial coastal management line determinations, but this is discretionary; work with relevant provincial department to determine municipal coastal management lines which the province must Gazette). Contribute to the implementation of legal framework associated with coastal management lines.
<b>3</b>	<b>Determining and adjusting coastal boundaries of coastal access land</b>	Ensure specified considerations are taken into account when determining or adjusting a coastal boundary of coastal access land.

<b>4</b>	<b>Marking coastal boundaries on zoning maps</b>	Delineate coastal boundaries determined or adjusted in terms of section 26 of the ICM Act on zoning scheme maps and in Spatial Development Frameworks, where applicable and appropriate.
<b>5</b>	<b>Municipal CMPs</b>	Prepare and adopt a municipal CMP for managing the coastal zone or specific parts of the coastal zone in the municipality.
<b>6</b>	<b>Consistency and alignment between Municipal CMPs and other statutory plans</b>	Ensure that any plan, policy or programme adopted by an organ of state that may affect coastal management is consistent and aligned with municipal coastal management programmes, which in turn is aligned with provincial coastal management programmes and the national coastal management programme and ensure that IDPs (including its spatial development framework) is consistent with other statutory plans (See section 52(1)(a) to (f) of the ICM Act) adopted by either a national or a provincial organ of state.
<b>7</b>	<b>Consultation and public participation</b>	Adequate consultation and public participation precede the exercising of a power by a municipality, which the ICM Act requires to be exercised in accordance with section 53 of the Act.
<b>8</b>	<b>Implementation of land use legislation in coastal protection zone</b>	Section 62 of the ICM Act obliges any organ of state that is implementing any legislation that regulates the planning or development of land, in a manner that conforms to the principles of cooperative governance contained in Chapter 3 of the Constitution, apply that legislation in relation to land in the coastal protection zone in a way that gives effect to the purposes for which the protection zone is established as set out in section 17 of the ICM Act. Furthermore, SPLUMA requires that a land use scheme must comply with environmental legislation.





# THE NCMP'S REVIEW OF COMPLEXITIES, SUCCESSSES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The NCMP provides direction and guidance towards a structured and standardised approach to coastal management in South Africa, as an iterative, dynamic process where priorities for coastal management must be periodically evaluated to improve performance and revise strategies. The first NCMP established national priorities and associated management objectives for coastal management coupled with a 5-year implementation plan to ensure tangible delivery of actions for the implementation of national coastal management functions as mandated in the ICM Act.

## **Successes**

The ICM Act has clearly defined roles and responsibilities for national, provincial, and local authorities in managing coastal resources this has assisted in the effective implementation of the NCMP by establishing comprehensive frameworks for coastal management. Significant progress in coastal conservation has been achieved through the creation and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) with the expansion of MPAs along the South African coastline that helped protect marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

Community-driven beach clean-ups, access awareness campaigns, educational programs, and stakeholder forums have fostered greater community involvement in coastal stewardship which has increased public awareness and participation in coastal management activities. The establishment and implementation of coastal management lines and stricter environmental

impact assessments (EIAs) for coastal development projects have strengthened coastal planning and development control measures to prevent unsustainable practices. Several regulations have been successfully published and implemented, including those concerning the control of vehicle use in coastal areas and the management of boat launching sites, and regulation on the coastal water discharge, reclamation of land from coastal waters regulations which enhance coastal access and environmental protection.

## **Complexities**

There have been limited financial and human resources at various levels of government which has led to inconsistent enforcement of regulations and insufficient support for coastal management initiatives. Complex coordination among multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, municipalities, NGOs, and local communities, has resulted in fragmented efforts and overlapping mandates, leading to inefficiencies in the NCMP's implementation.

Increased vulnerability of coastal areas to climate change impacts, such as sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and extreme weather events poses significant threats to coastal infrastructure, habitats, and communities. Insufficient data and monitoring systems to support evidence-based decision-making make it difficult to assess the effectiveness of coastal management interventions and respond to emerging issues. It is important also to understand some of the real complexities (set out below) that are faced when undertaking compliance and enforcement actions in the coastal environment.

- Provincial and local municipalities have not fully implemented the ICM Act, many municipalities lack the necessary technical expertise and trained personnel to conduct thorough inspections. In relation to discharges into coastal waters from Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTWs), key Complexities include:
  - Delays in issuing permits which is mostly due to incomplete applications
  - Inadequate information in permit applications, including missing specialist studies
  - Limited capacity to consistently monitor compliance with permits
  - Historical discharge issues requiring time to bring polluters into compliance, particularly for essential services like sewage
  - Complex compliance pathways for legacy discharges
  - It should be noted that collaboration between Coastal Pollution Management and Compliance and Enforcement sectors has improved significantly, with ongoing work to address these Complexities.
- Expansion and declaration of new marine protected areas (MPAs) is taking place but more capacity is needed to undertake compliance and enforcement within these MPAs, particularly those off-shore MPAs;

- There has been a notable increase in unauthorised coastal mining activities, characterised by issues such as unethical practices and misconduct. These activities appear to be influenced by various organised groups within the construction sector.

## **Lessons Learned**

Successful coastal management requires the active participation of all stakeholders, this assists in building strong partnerships and fostering collaboration. The collaborative efforts between government, NGOs, and local communities have led to more effective conservation and management practices. Dynamic coastal environments require adaptive management practices that incorporate flexibility and continuous learning in responding to coastal issues. Periodic review and adjustment of management plans is crucial to address new complexities and incorporate new knowledge. Enhancing the capacity of institutions involved in coastal management is critical for effective implementation, by offering training programs and allocating resources to improve the skills and capabilities of local authorities and managers.

Coastal management can be improved through the utilisation of technology and innovative solutions such as the use of remote sensing, GIS mapping, and mobile applications for data collection and monitoring. Securing long-term financial sustainability is vital for the success of coastal management programs. Exploring diverse funding sources, including public-private partnerships and international funding mechanisms, to support ongoing and future initiatives such as Green Climate fund initiatives.

The National Coastal Committee should request that the Provincial Coastal Committees (PCCs) provide updates regarding the progress and current status in issuing notices as mandated by the ICM Act.

The implementation of the ICM Act in South Africa requires a focused research expertise to address several critical areas within the current landscape of ocean and coastal management. This need arises from the complexities of managing coastal zones, which are influenced by various environmental, social, and economic factors.

The National Coastal Management Programme has made significant strides in promoting sustainable coastal development and conservation. However, addressing resource constraints, stakeholder coordination, climate change, and data gaps is essential for future success. The lessons learned underscore the importance of stakeholder engagement, adaptive management, institutional capacity building, technological innovation, and sustainable funding in achieving long-term coastal sustainability.

Implementation of ICM Act has also unearthed areas of the ICM Act that require amendment as certain provisions are either, not aligned to other legislation, and are difficult to implement. This is being addressed through the NEMA/SEMA rationalisation process.





## LINKAGES AND CROSS- CUTTING PROJECTS

As a developing country, South Africa needs to continuously balance the economic opportunities which our oceans and coast affords us while maintaining its environmental integrity. To achieve a truly integrated approach to managing South Africa's coast, it is essential to recognise and consider the connection between Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and various other projects and initiatives occurring within the coastal zone. This includes collaboration with different sectors, government departments, institutions, and addressing other environmental priorities set by the DFFE. A particular focus should be placed on establishing and maintaining networks, partnerships, and agreements, which should be facilitated and coordinated through the institutional mechanisms outlined in the ICM Act. Below are some of the important linkages that need to be established and/or maintained for effective ICM. It is important to note that linkages will change over time with the changing coastal environment, societal needs and the growing economy of South Africa.

## **Intergovernmental Coordination and Collaboration**

Integrated coastal management (ICM) has been adopted globally in order to standardise policies affecting the coastal zone, planning and co-ordinating approaches. These processes encouraged a common goal for different resource user groups through the co-ordination of policies, sectors, management concerns, development objectives, and political, stakeholder and individual interests. ICM is cross-cutting and affects a lot of governmental regulatory bodies, each with its mandates and roles and responsibilities. Intergovernmental coastal management committees are used to integrate ICM policy for different organisations, ICM can be used to integrate different levels of government and between ministries, helping to set out the mandates of government institutions and clarify jurisdictional boundaries and duties.

The existing structures are the National Coastal Committee, Working Group 7 and the provincial committee. Also discretionary, there are also currently nine functional municipal coastal committees in South Africa. These committees assist in information gathering, planning and enforcement from different government structures and make more effective use of local knowledge. The main goal is to promote integrated coastal management in South Africa and effective co-operative governance by coordinating the effective implementation of the ICM Act and the National Coastal Management Programme.

The local government plays a vital role in ICM planning and implementation through IDPs and SDFs. IDPs ensure that coastal management is integrated into broader municipal planning and development. This integration helps align coastal management with other municipal priorities, services and enables local governments can secure funding and resources specifically for coastal management initiatives. The SDFs provide a long-term vision for land use and spatial planning within a municipality. They help identify and designate areas for conservation, development, and other uses, ensuring that coastal zones are managed sustainably.

The ICM Act has strived for practical interventions to adapt coastal poverty into sustainable coastal livelihoods and to promote the realisation of the coast as a national asset into practical initiatives that will focus on the previously marginalised groups which involves women and youth. The Expanded Public Works Programmes (EPWP) was initiated in 2003 a national poverty reduction programme, which includes the Working for the Coast Programme which is run by DFFE. These programmes are aimed

at creating work opportunities for unemployed and poor people in South Africa through the delivery of public and community services. EPWP is linked with various other national initiatives and policies, including the National Development Plan (NDP) which aims at reducing unemployment to 6% by 2030 and Operation Phakisa that contributes to the ocean economy and environmental conservation. All spheres of government in terms of their normal mandates are involved in the implementation of EPWP programmes.

## **Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)**

Coastal management should be integrated with marine spatial planning to balance ecological, economic, and social objectives in marine and coastal environments. This ensures that various uses of the coastal and marine environment, such as fishing, tourism, shipping, and conservation, are considered together rather than in isolation. By mapping out where activities can and cannot occur, MSP helps prevent and resolve conflicts among different marine and coastal users. This is essential for maintaining harmony between economic development and environmental protection. MSP promotes the sustainable use of marine resources by ensuring that development does not exceed the ecosystem's capacity. It aligns with the principles of sustainable development by balancing economic growth with the need to protect marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. MSP adopts an ecosystem-based approach, considering the cumulative impacts of human activities on marine ecosystems.

This helps maintain ecosystem health and resilience, which is crucial for the long-term sustainability of marine resources. It supports coastal management by incorporating climate change adaptation strategies. It identifies areas vulnerable to sea-level rise, erosion, and extreme weather events, and recommends measures to mitigate these impacts. Successful MSP involves the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, industry representatives, and non-governmental organisations. This inclusive approach ensures that the planning process is transparent and that the interests of all parties are considered.

The Marine Spatial Planning Framework outlines the principles, objectives, and steps for implementing MSP in the country. It emphasises the need for an integrated approach that aligns with international best practices.

Operation Phakisa which was launched in 2014, aims to unlock the economic potential of South Africa's oceans. It includes MSP as a fundamental component to ensure that economic development activities are sustainably managed.



The Marine Spatial Planning Act is the legislation that provides the legislative basis for MSP in South Africa. It establishes a coordinated approach to planning and managing marine activities and resources, and importantly, mandates certain government departments and functionaries to undertake certain tasks to give effect to MSP in the Republic.

## **Monitoring and Research**

Regular monitoring of coastal and marine environments helps in detecting changes and trends. This includes monitoring water quality, species populations, habitat conditions, and human activities. Establishing baseline data on coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, and socio-economic conditions is essential. This data provides a reference point for assessing changes and impacts over time. Monitoring results inform management decisions, allowing for adaptive management. This approach ensures that management strategies can be adjusted based on new information and changing conditions. Research helps in developing and analysing different scenarios for coastal development and conservation, aiding in the creation of robust management plans.

Integrating research across disciplines (ecology, oceanography, social sciences) ensures a comprehensive understanding of coastal systems. This holistic view is essential for effective ICM. Involving local communities, industry, and policymakers in research initiatives ensures that the studies address relevant issues and that the results are more likely to be accepted and applied. Engaging the public in monitoring efforts increases data collection capacity and raises awareness about coastal issues. Utilising satellite imagery, drones, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) enhances the capacity to monitor large and remote areas efficiently. Developing robust data management and sharing platforms ensures that data is accessible to all stakeholders and supports informed decision-making.

The NCMP outlines the strategic priorities for coastal management in South Africa, emphasising the importance of monitoring and research by Chief Directorate Oceans and Coastal Research and Specialist Monitoring Service

The South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) conducts long-term environmental monitoring and research, providing valuable data for coastal management. Its Egagasini Node focuses on marine and coastal systems.

The Ocean and Coastal Information Management System (OCIMS) is an integrated platform that provides access to data and information on South Africa's ocean and coastal environments, supporting management and decision-making.

## **Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate change poses significant threats to coastal regions worldwide, and South Africa is no exception. Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) plays a crucial role in addressing these threats by implementing adaptive strategies that enhance the resilience and sustainability of coastal ecosystems and communities by assessing coastal areas most at risk from sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and extreme weather events. This involves mapping and modelling to predict future impacts. Evaluating the socio-economic vulnerabilities of coastal communities, including their capacity to adapt to changing conditions. Utilizing natural ecosystems such as mangroves, salt marshes, and dunes to act as buffers against storm surges and erosion incorporating climate change adaptation measures to address rising sea levels, increased storm frequency, and other climate-related impacts.

Protecting and restoring biodiversity strengthens ecosystem resilience and maintains essential services, with ecological infrastructure providing natural storm protection alongside benefits for fisheries and tourism. Designing and constructing coastal infrastructure to withstand climate impacts, including elevated structures and improved drainage systems. In some cases, relocating infrastructure and communities away from vulnerable coastal areas to safer locations. Implementing policies and regulations that incorporate climate adaptation measures into coastal management plans. Ensuring that climate adaptation is integrated into national and local development plans, disaster risk reduction strategies, and environmental management policies.

Engaging local communities in adaptation planning and decision-making processes to ensure that solutions are locally relevant and supported. Providing education and capacity-building initiatives to improve understanding and preparedness for climate impacts among stakeholders. Establishing monitoring programs to track the effectiveness of adaptation measures and adjust strategies as needed. Continuously collecting data on climate impacts and adaptation outcomes to inform policy and management decisions.

The National Climate Change Response Policy (NCCRP) outlines South Africa's approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, emphasising the importance of integrating adaptation into coastal management.

The Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI) is used to assess the vulnerability of South African coastal areas to climate change impacts, providing a basis for prioritising adaptation actions.

The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) serves as South Africa's National Adaptation Plan, outlining the country's approach to climate adaptation. It identifies priority sectors such as water, agriculture, and human settlements, and emphasises the need for coherent action across different levels of government.

The Climate Change Act, 2024 (Act 22 of 2024), recently assented to by the President of South Africa, establishes a comprehensive framework for the country's climate change response. It is designed to facilitate a coordinated and integrated approach across all levels of government.

Currently, the Climate Change Adaptation Response Plan (CARP) is in draft form, which will build on the foundations laid by the NCCRP. This plan aims to provide more detailed implementation strategies, including:

- Sector-Specific Adaptation Actions: Identifying specific actions tailored to various sectors based on their unique vulnerabilities and needs.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks: Establishing systems to monitor progress and evaluate the effectiveness of adaptation measures over time.

Municipalities along the coast are developing and implementing local adaptation plans that address specific climate risks and vulnerabilities.

## **Biodiversity Conservation**

Protecting coastal and marine biodiversity is crucial for maintaining ecosystem health and supporting livelihoods dependent on these ecosystems. Conservation efforts often focus on critical habitats like mangroves, coral reefs, and estuaries due to their significant ecological roles and vulnerability to human impacts. South Africa has made significant efforts to protect coastal and marine biodiversity through various conservation strategies, particularly focusing on critical habitats. The ICM Act promotes the conservation, sustainable use and protection of estuaries, mangroves and wetlands directly and through the preparation of management plans and the specification of management authorities.

The ICM Act requires the development of EMPs to ensure the sustainable use and protection of estuarine ecosystems, which are hotspots of biodiversity. A network of MPAs aimed at conserving marine biodiversity and ecosystems has been established and designated under the NEMPAA. These areas are designated to protect critical

habitats such as coral reefs, kelp forests, and estuaries. Notable examples include iSimangaliso Wetland Park MPA located in KwaZulu-Natal, Table Mountain National Park MPA along Cape Peninsula and Robben Island MPA situated off the coast of Cape Town to name but a few. In addition to this, Operation Phakisa was launched in 2014 to focus on unlocking the economic potential of South Africa's oceans while ensuring environmental sustainability. It includes initiatives to enhance the management and expansion of MPAs, improve fisheries management, and address marine pollution. Operation Phakisa emphasises continuous monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation of strategies to ensure effectiveness. The initiative has received support from various stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector entities, and civil society organisations.

The launch of the 30 by 30 initiative under the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People aims to protect 30% of the world's land and ocean by the year 2030, focusing significantly on coastal systems, including mangroves and estuarine ecosystems. This global conservation effort has garnered support from over 90 countries and is driven by the need to combat biodiversity loss, climate change, and habitat degradation. The coalition aims to accelerate action towards achieving global biodiversity targets set forth in international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It aligns with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which was adopted during COP15 in December 2022. DFFE has made significant progress in implementing several interventions aimed at achieving the 30 by 30 initiative through stakeholder engagement, policy alignment, increasing protected areas, community involvement, and securing necessary funding to enhance conservation efforts in South Africa.

NEMPAA and the ICM Act are integrated to ensure that conservation measures are effective across different habitats and ecosystems. Operation Phakisa aligns with the objectives of the ICM Act by promoting sustainable economic development while ensuring the protection and conservation of coastal and marine resources. The ICM Act incorporates adaptive management principles, allowing for flexibility and responsiveness to changing environmental conditions and new scientific information.

### **Capacity Building and Education and Awareness Campaigns**

Capacity building and education and awareness campaigns aim to promote the sustainable use and conservation of coastal and marine resources. These programs are essential in fostering a deeper understanding of coastal ecosystems and the need for their protection. DFFE is involved in coastal management education and awareness, by conducting works, seminars, and public awareness campaigns focused on coastal and marine conservation. These programs often include topics such as pollution

control, biodiversity conservation, climate change, coastal access, sustainable use of marine resources and general integrated coastal management.

The provincial local government and, authorities are also running similar initiatives that are aimed at supporting the ICM Act goals by fostering a culture of coastal stewardship and sustainability among South Africans. These programs often include educational campaigns, school programs, and public events designed to increase awareness of coastal issues and promote community involvement in coastal management. These initiatives are not only limited to government organisations, various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) also contribute to coastal education and awareness efforts. They often collaborate with government agencies to provide training, conduct research, and organise awareness campaigns focused on protecting coastal ecosystems and promoting sustainable use of coastal resources.

## **Compliance and Enforcement**

The primary role of Compliance and Enforcement is to bring the regulated community into compliance with all the laws and regulations applicable to the coastal environment, specifically the ICM Act. This is achieved by encouraging the regulated community to comply voluntarily through awareness and educational initiatives and the use of voluntary measures of self and co-regulation. In this regard, the regulated community self-monitors in terms of issued permits or authorisations by conducting the necessary monitoring measures and submits the necessary reports to DFFE and other implementing organs of state for desktop audit reviews to be conducted. There are also established regulatory mechanisms to monitor compliance with issued permits, authorisations and licenses such as responding to reported incidents and complaints and conducting proactive site inspections. Where non-compliances and illegal activities are detected, action is taken against perpetrators through administrative enforcement and/ or criminal enforcement. The following are the main activities that trigger compliance and enforcement action within the coastal environment:

- **Off-Road Driving:** Anyone that drives a vehicle in the coastal zone must be a holder of a permit, unless the driving is identified in the Control of Use of Vehicles in the Coastal Zone Regulations (ORV Regulations) as a permissible use. Compliance monitoring takes place and enforcement action is taken where people are found driving in the coastal zone in contravention of the ORV Regulations. This includes, for example, seizing of vehicles and issuing of admission of guilt fines.

- **Coastal Pollution:** Anyone that discharges effluent originating from a source on land into coastal waters must first obtain a coastal waters discharge permit unless that discharge is permitted in terms of a General Authorisation, both issued in terms of the ICM Act. Anyone who dumps waste or other material at sea must first obtain a dumping permit, also issued in terms of the ICM Act. Incineration, loading, importing or exporting of waste or other material at sea is a prohibited activity. Compliance monitoring is conducted through compliance inspections. Enforcement action is taken against anyone who conducts such activities without a valid permit, in contravention of permit conditions or where prohibited activities are undertaken.
- **Illegal Structures:** Any structure erected on or within the coastal zone which is or is likely to have an adverse effect on the coastal environment or which has been erected or upgraded contrary to the ICM Act or other law, is considered to be unlawful. Enforcement action is taken against the perpetrators by means of the issuance of a repair or removal notice, a coastal protection notice and/or initiating a criminal investigation.
- **Coastal Encroachment and Coastal Access:** Anyone who carries out an activity that is having, or is likely to have, an adverse effect on the rights of natural persons to gain access to, use and enjoy coastal public property is in conflict with the legislation. Enforcement action is taken against anyone who conducts such activities without a valid permit and such person may be issued with a coastal access notice and or be criminally investigated.
- **Illegal Mining in sensitive coastal environments:** Any activity carried out by a person or persons, on or within the coastal zone which is or is likely to have an adverse effect on the coastal environment, such as illegal mining, would be dealt with through enforcement action, could include both administrative notices and criminal enforcement action. These activities contravene multiple pieces of legislation in addition to the ICM Act.





# STATE OF THE COAST REPORTING

State of Coast (SOC) reporting in South Africa under the ICM Act is an essential process that supports sustainable coastal management. It assesses the current status, trends, and Complexities of the coastal and marine environments and provides insights for policy-making and management actions. Section 93 of the ICM Act mandates that the Minister prepare a State of the Coast Report. Procedures on reporting mechanisms for compliance monitoring are mostly stipulated in the laws and policies governing the various human activities in the coastal zone. Performance reporting should be addressed in the key performance assessments of different departments, particularly regarding requirements under NEMA, which mandates reporting on the management of environmental matters.

SOC reporting under the ICM Act is crucial for the sustainable management of South Africa's coastal and marine resources. It provides valuable insights into the health of coastal ecosystems, socio-economic dynamics, and governance structures, supporting informed decision-making and effective management strategies. Continued improvements in data collection, stakeholder engagement, and integration with other management frameworks will enhance the impact and effectiveness of SOC reporting in the future.

## 1. Coastal Access

**Goal:** Ensuring that the public has safe and equitable access to coastal public property through the designation of sufficient coastal access land that is cognisant of the sensitivity of coastal ecosystems, the needs and livelihoods of coastal communities or other socio-economic considerations, as well as the removal of inappropriate and unsafe coastal access points.

Description	Potential Indicator	Information Source
Access points Audit	Number and type of access points along the coast, as well as the number of coastal universal access spots.	Coastal Provincial departments
Public launch sites Gazette Notice	Number of officially registered and managed launch sites along the coast.	Coastal Provincial departments
Implementation of the ORV Regulations	Number of ORV permits issued for use within the coastal zone	DFFE and National Authorities
Number of designated coastal access points	No. of municipalities that have designated coastal access strips across private land (this is essential to identifying data gaps/lack of governance linkages for investigating provincial and/or national intervention)	Local Municipalities
Support interventions by DFFE to Municipality	Number of pilots implementation sites identified and implemented	DFFE

## 2. Estuary Management

**Goal:** Ensure that all estuaries along the South Africa coast are managed in an integrated, holistic manner in accordance with the National Estuarine Management Protocol and the extent to which activities within estuaries are consistent with the other key priorities for coastal management

Description	Potential Indicator	Information Source
Development of estuarine management plans	Number of estuarine management plans developed	DFFE, Coastal Provincial Departments, Conservation agencies
Implementation of estuarine management plans	Annual monitoring report	DFFE, Coastal Provincial Departments, Conservation agencies
Rehabilitate and sustainably manage degraded estuarine habitat	Number of hectares rehabilitated	DFFE, Coastal Provincial Departments, Conservation agencies
Percentage of estuaries protected (including OECMs)	Number of declared protected areas and OECMs	DFFE, Coastal Provincial Departments, Conservation agencies

## 3. Coastal Spatial Planning and Climate Change

**Goal:** Ensuring that all planning and decision-making tools applied by all organs of state within the coastal zone address coastal vulnerability by taking into account the dynamic nature of our coast, sensitive coastal environments, health and safety of people and resilient of communities, illegal structures within coastal public property, and appropriate placement and design of infra-structure not to compromise investment by the state, as well as the rehabilitation of coastal ecosystems

Description	Potential Indicator	Information Source
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Evolution of the shoreline over time.	Large scale incidents of Coastal erosion	DFFE
	Large scale Incidents of Coastal Accretion	
	Incidents of Inundation/Flooding	
	Incidents of storm surges	
	Harmful Algal Bloom Incidents	
	Coral Bleaching severity	
Percentage of coastline with an established CMLs delineated on maps of zoning schemes	Coastal Management Lines (CMLs)	Coastal Provincial departments and Municipalities
Development occurring within the risk zone	Development at risk	SANSA/DFFE
Coastal land transformation from one land cover to the next over the 5-year period (i.e. from grassland/agriculture/forestry to residential/commercial development) and pattern of development Ideally, it would report on the pattern of development in the coastal area using: type and extent / % of total area. It is important to observe whether development occurs further away from the high-water mark or close to the high-water mark.	Coastal land use and change	DFFE/ South African Environmental Observation Network
Types of use of state land and associated percentages of use within the coastal zone	Use of state land	DPW, DARLR
Estuarine land transformation from one land cover to the next over the 5-year period that occur in EFZ of estuaries ( Report on the pattern of development in the EFZ using: type and extent / % of total area.)	Land development in the estuarine functional zone (EFZ)	Satellite information/Images/ Municipality/ South African Environmental Observation Network

It is important to observe whether development occurs further away from the high-water mark or close to the high-water mark		
This indicates the degree of pressure on the coast arising from urban development and infrastructure construction.	Area of built-up land along the coast	Satellite information/Images/ Municipality/ South African Environmental Observation Network
The proportion of agricultural land which is being managed under intensive systems. It is an aggregation of all pressures on biodiversity resulting from intensive agricultural practices.	Land take by intensive agriculture (Proportion of agricultural land farmed intensively)	DARLRD
This describes the percentage of publicly owned land within the coastal zone.	Public ownership of the coastal zone	Deeds Office, DARLRD/ Coastal Viewer
The percentage of publicly owned land held in trust by the state that has been leased by the mandated Department to para-statals and the private sector	Publicly owned land leased out by Government	Deeds Office, DARLRD
The proportion of land area under natural or planted stands of trees of at least 5 metres in situ, whether productive or not (excludes tree stands in agricultural production systems for example, in fruit plantations and agroforestry systems and trees in urban parks and gardens.	Forested land area (coastal forest)	Environmental Programme
The number of servitudes (per province) adjacent to coastal public property that can be utilised for facilitation of ICM objectives, such as coastal access)	Servitudes adjacent to coastal public property	DFFE

## 4. Coastal Pollution

**Goal:** Ensure the effective management of waste and wastewater into the coastal zone and minimise adverse effects on the health of coastal communities, and on coastal ecosystems and their ability to support the sustainable uses of coastal resources in a manner that is socially, economically and ecologically justifiable

Description	Potential Indicator	Information Source
The annual amount (in tonnes) of recorded oil and other pollutants spills accidents/alerts from shipping along the coast and in South Africa's EEZ	Shipping Pollution incidents along the coast (Oil spills etc.)	DoT, SAMSA, DFFE Compliance records of reported incidents
The annual cost of cleaning up after shipping pollution incidents along the coast	Clean-up costs of shipping pollution incidents	DoT/SAMSA/DFFE
The volume of sediment dredged and dumped annually by ports	Dredging and dumping of port sediment	Reporting by Ports
The amount and types of litter collected during the international coastal clean-up day	Volume and types of beach debris and plastics collected	Municipalities; Needs considerable support and effort from province officials
Number of recreational beaches complying with the South African Water Quality Guidelines for recreational use	List of identified compliant beaches	Municipality consultations through SALGA for info

## 5. Education, Awareness and Information

**Goal:** Ensuring that the general public and decision-makers are appropriately aware, educated and trained, where applicable, so as to be able to take collective responsibility for managing and protecting the coastal environment in a manner that is socially, economically and ecologically justifiable



Description	Potential Indicator	Information Source
Promotion of education, awareness and safety	Numbers of beaches with Blue Flag status.	WESSA
The percentage of the annual budget allocated to public education and awareness of coastal environments/coastal issues.	Budget allocated to public awareness, education & Training (National)	tbc
Number of National Coastal Awareness Campaigns	National Coastal Awareness Campaigns	DFFE
Number of National Coastal Training Programs (Improved awareness and education)	National Coastal Training Programs	DFFE
National Estuarine Management Course		DFFE
Oil Spill training and preparedness workshop.	Number of people trained annually	DFFE
Number and type of heritage resources, monuments on the coast that have been declared and are under formal protection.	Coastal heritage resources	tbc

## 6. Coastal livelihood and poverty alleviation

**Goal:** To promote sustainable coastal livelihoods and reduce poverty through equitable access to coastal resources, development of local enterprises, and capacity building programs that enhance community resilience while ensuring responsible stewardship of coastal ecosystems.

Description	Potential Indicator	Information Source
Percentage of women working in government within the field of coastal management from Middle-Management and above	Degree of women participation in decision-making positions	tbc

Number of communities dependent on the coast for subsistence	Subsistence coastal livelihoods	tbc
Promotion of equal opportunity and social inclusion for coastal livelihood that includes women and youth.	Coastal livelihoods/EPWP: Working for the Coast Programme	tbc
Number of permits issued for small-scale fisheries operations	Small scale fisheries	tbc
Number of aquaculture initiatives	Number of jobs created Number of communities beneficiaries	tbc

## 7. Coastal Research

**Goal:** To have an effective national information system and research framework to support integrated coastal management, that is able to promote a dedicated, cooperative, coordinated and integrated planning management approach accessible to all stakeholders

Description	Potential Indicator	Information Source
Status and trends of biodiversity and habitat loss.	Change of condition of coastal and marine habitats and species that have been identified as priorities for conservation	DFFE: Oceans and Coast Research. Annual Science Report and associated internal research projects and programmes
Area protected for nature conservation, landscape. Includes marine protected areas	Area of land and sea protected by statutory designations	DFFE: Oceans and Coast Research. Annual Science Report and associated internal research projects and programmes
Existence of management plans for coastal and marine endangered/endemic species.	Terrestrial coastal / marine endangered /endemic species with management plan	DFFE: Oceans and Coast Research. Annual Science Report and associated internal research projects and programmes

The number of and type of marine animal strandings	Strandings of marine animals	DFFE: Oceans and Coast Research. Annual Science Report and associated internal research projects and programmes
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## 8. Compliance and Enforcement

**Goal:** Establish an effective compliance and enforcement system to bring the regulated community into compliance with related laws, including through cooperation and coordination between organs of state with enforcement responsibilities and NGOs with appropriate capacity.

Description	Potential Indicator	Information Source
Proactive inspections undertaken to monitor compliance with the ICM Act	Number of inspections undertaken to monitor compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CWDPs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EMI Case Administration System (eCAS)</li> </ul>
	Number of notices issued in respect of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to comply with CWDP's</li> <li>Unlawful discharges of effluent / pollution to coastal waters</li> <li>Illegal developments within coastal public property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EMI Case Administration System (eCAS)</li> </ul>
Administrative enforcement notices issued for contraventions of the ICM Act	Enable right to access and use of coastal public property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NECEIS Enforcement Register</li> </ul>

Enforcement of the ORV Regulations Fines issued for unlawful off-road driving in coastal areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of fines issued</li> <li>• Number of fines paid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMI Case Administration System (eCAS)</li> <li>• Enforcement Register</li> </ul>
Criminal investigations undertaken in relation to contraventions of the ICM Act	Number of criminal dockets finalized and handed over to the NPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMI Case Administration System (eCAS)</li> <li>• Enforcement Register</li> </ul>



# THE NCMP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: 2025-2030

## The National Priorities for Coastal Management

OLD PRIORITY (2015 NCMP)	NEW PRIORITY
<b>PRIORITY 1: COASTAL VULNERABILITY</b>	PRIORITY 1: EQUITABLE PUBLIC ACCESS
<b>PRIORITY 2: EQUITABLE PUBLIC ACCESS</b>	
<b>PRIORITY 3: ESTUARY MANAGEMENT</b>	PRIORITY 2: ESTUARY MANAGEMENT
<b>PRIORITY 4: COASTAL POLLUTION</b>	PRIORITY 3: SPATIAL PLANNING AND CLIMATE CHANGE
<b>PRIORITY 5: COASTAL MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>	PRIORITY 4: COASTAL POLLUTION
<b>PRIORITY 6: COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT</b>	PRIORITY 5: AWARENESS EDUCATION AND TRAINING
<b>PRIORITY 7: COASTAL INFORMATION AND RESEARCH</b>	PRIORITY 6: COASTAL RESEARCH

**PRIORITY 8: AWARENESS EDUCATION AND TRAINING****PRIORITY 9: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS****PRIORITY 7: MECHANISMS FOR EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

## Priority 1: Equitable Public Access

**Goal:** Ensuring that the public has safe and equitable access to coastal public property and its resources through the designation establishment of sufficient coastal access land that is cognisant of the sensitivity of coastal ecosystems, the needs and livelihoods of coastal communities or other socio-economic considerations, as well as the removal of inappropriate and unsafe coastal access points.

Objectives	Action	POTENTIAL INDICATORS	Completion Date
Municipal Support to implement coastal access priority interventions	Identification and implementation of coastal access priority pilot sites	Undertake site suitability and viability assessments for initiating coastal access in four (4) priority sites	2024
		Develop concepts and draft spatial plan for the coastal access land.	2025
		Explore different sources of infrastructure financing mechanism for infrastructure development	2026
		Initiate construction for all coastal access infrastructure projects	2027

## Priority 2: Estuary Management

**Goal:** Ensure that all estuaries along the South Africa coast are managed in an integrated, holistic manner in accordance with the National Estuarine Management Protocol and the extent to which activities within estuaries are consistent with the other key priorities for coastal management



Objective	Action	POTENTIAL INDICATORS	Completion Date
<p>Implement the national estuarine management protocol for a uniform approach to estuarine management.</p> <p>Develop and implement individual estuary management plans that are tailored to suit the current and future requirements including social, economic and ecological considerations.</p>	Development of estuarine management plans	Number of estuary management plans developed	Ongoing
	Implementation of estuarine management plans	Annual Implementation plans and reports	Ongoing
	Rehabilitate and sustainably manage degraded estuarine habitat	Number of hectares rehabilitated/restored.	Ongoing
	Number of estuaries protected (including OECMs)	Number of declared protected areas and OECMs	Ongoing
	Ensure alignment between EIA regulations and the National Estuarine Management Protocol	Amendments to <i>EIA LN3</i> for the EFZ delineation completed.	2026

### Priority 3: Coastal Spatial Planning and Climate Change

**Goal:** Ensuring that all planning and decision-making tools applied by all organs of state within the coastal zone address coastal vulnerability by taking into account the dynamic nature of our coast, sensitive coastal environments, health and safety of people and resilient of communities, illegal structures within coastal public property, and appropriate placement and design of infra-structure not to compromise investment by the state, as well as the rehabilitation of coastal ecosystems

Objective	Action	POTENTIAL INDICATORS	Completion Date
Climate Change Adaptation Plan	Development and Finalisation of	CARP (10-year Implementation Plan) developed and implemented	2025

for Coastal Zone Management	the Climate Change Coastal Adaptation Response Plan "CARP"	Resource mobilization plan developed	2026
Exploring Regional and International Donor Funding Agencies for implementing the CARP Implementation Plan	Develop and Finalise three (3) Funding proposals for Coastal Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Resilience projects	Coastal Climate Change Resilience project proposal developed and submitted	2026
		Coastal Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) project through Special Management Area / Locally Managed Areas proposal developed and submitted.	2027
		Concept Note and project proposal developed to explore the Just Energy Transition Climate Change initiative for the coastal regions	2026
		Concept Note and project proposal developed for coastal climate change implications to the Land-Sea Interactions	2026
Coastal Climate Change Information Management / DsT developed	Develop and Finalise the Coastal & Marine Atlas	Feasibility study and Assessment for the potential needs and desirability of the DsT.	2025
		Coastal and Marine Atlas developed and finalised	2027
		Data availability and Protocols developed for dissemination and storages	2028

## Priority 4: Coastal Pollution

**Goal:** Ensure the effective management of waste and wastewater into the coastal zone and minimising adverse effects on the health of coastal communities, and on coastal ecosystems and their ability to support the sustainable uses of coastal resources in a manner that is socially, economically and ecologically justifiable

DESCRIPTION	Action	POTENTIAL INDICATORS	Completion Date
Permits issued/refused for all coastal waters discharge applications received	Recommendations for completed coastal waters discharge permits (CWDP) applications issued	Number of Permits issued/refused;	Ongoing
This Upgrade and revision of local oil spill contingency plans for coastal regions, including disaster management planning, and handling and disposal of waste originating from clean-up	Update contingency plans to align with the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP)	Continuously updated oil spill contingency plans	Ongoing
Regulations for offshore bunkering	Develop Regulations to determine the requirements for offshore bunkering operations along the South African coast.	Regulations published in the Government Gazette.	2025
Identify plastic pollution hotspots linked to the leakage of legacy plastics into the marine environment	Carry out a study to identify hotspots	Project TOR drafted for service provider to complete study.  Report submitted as a final deliverable.	2026  2029

Identify the current practices regarding discarded fishing gear in South Africa	Carry out a study to identify the practices	Project TOR drafted for service provider to complete study.  Report submitted as a final deliverable.	2026  2029
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## Priority 5: Awareness, Education and Information

**Goal:** Ensure effective Awareness, Education, Training and Information Sharing for Coastal Management

OBJECTIVE	Action	POTENTIAL INDICATORS	Date of Completion
The promotion of transparency for earnest discussions around critical Complexities for the implementation of effective coastal management in South Africa through a collaborative approach	The facilitation and coordination of effective coastal management through collaboration of different stakeholders	ICM Lekgotla Conference	Every two years
Promotion and capacity building for the ICM Act implementation	Development of training course material for coastal management  Development of awareness educational product to increase awareness and knowledge of ICM	The ICM Act Training	Ongoing
		Coastal Access Awareness Campaigns	Ongoing
		Introduction to Estuarine Management	Ongoing
		Introduction to Marine Protected Areas	Ongoing
	Increase awareness of alternative uses of dredged material.	Workshop facilitated.	2026
		World Ocean Day	Ongoing
		National marine week	Yearly
		Coastal Clean up	Yearly

## Priority 7: Coastal Research

**Goal:** To have an effective national information system and research framework to support integrated coastal management, that is able to promote a dedicated, cooperative, coordinated and integrated planning management approach accessible to all stakeholders

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>POTENTIAL INDICATORS</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>
Report on annual status and trends of biodiversity and habitat loss in the coastal zone	Undertake relevant research and monitoring on coastal habitats and species	Change of condition of coastal and marine habitats and species that have been identified as priorities for conservation through Annual Science Report	Annual
Increased area protected for nature conservation, landscape. Includes marine protected areas under 30x30 objectives	Undertake research on identifying additional areas for expansion of conservation estate through MPA, EBSA's and OECM's in the coastal zone	Area of land and sea protected in the coastal zone by statutory designations	2030
Develop management plans for coastal and marine endangered/endemic species.	Develop 2 management plans for coastal and marine endangered/endemic species.	Terrestrial coastal / marine endangered /endemic species with management plans developed and promulgated for 1) African penguin and 2) sharks	2026
Report the number of and type of marine mammal strandings	Undertake marine mammal stranding monitoring and research	Report indicating the annual marine	Annual



		mammal strandings	
Report on rocky shore status and trends	Undertake rocky shore monitoring and research	Report indicating status and trends in rocky shores biodiversity This may already	Annual

## Priority 8: Mechanisms for effective Compliance and Enforcement

**Goal:** Establish a committed and effective compliance and enforcement system to bring the regulated community into compliance with related laws inclusive of cooperation and coordination between organs of state with enforcement responsibilities and NGO with appropriate capacity.

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	POTENTIAL INDICATORS	COMPLETION DATE
Extent of compliance and enforcement work is understood in order to inform policy and regulatory requirements and to inform future work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a standardized template for reporting to ICM</li> <li>Provide outputs from existing database</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly reports provided to ICM</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Provinces and local authorities implement the ICM Act compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint meeting of MINTECH Working Group 4 and 7</li> <li>Elevate outcomes to MECs and HODs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings facilitated</li> <li>Recommended actions monitored and implemented</li> </ul>	2024/2025  In line with recommended actions

and enforcement mandate			
Voluntary coastal officers under the ICM Act (e.g. involving local communities) provide support that strengthens the compliance and enforcement programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulations are developed at a national level for implementation by local and provincial government</li> <li>Consider legislative review to enable national department to appoint voluntary coastal officers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Regulations</li> <li>Published Regulations</li> <li>Brief prepared to support review of the ICM Act</li> </ul>	2027  2025
Working for the Coast programme is used to enhance compliance and enforcement in the coastal zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with EPWP to resuscitate the Working for the Coast initiative</li> <li>Establish a staff complement that will conduct compliance monitoring functions</li> <li>Develop work plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with EPWP and agreement in relation to utilization of Working for the Coast (WfC) programme to assist compliance and enforcement</li> <li>Number of WfC members assist with compliance and enforcement work</li> </ul>	2025  2026
Coastal discharges of effluent into the coastal environment are compliant with legal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-visit the Marine Outfall Audit that was conducted in 2016 for an update on issued and non-issued permits</li> <li>Internal engagements for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine Outfall Audit update</li> <li>Amendment to permits following internal engagements</li> <li>Recommended actions following</li> </ul>	2025 2024/25  2025

	<p>alignment of permit conditions and the establishment of thresholds against which to measure compliance with CWDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level engagement with DWS and local municipalities to discuss interventions to address the declining state of functionality of WWTWs and pump stations</li> <li>• High level engagement with DWS and local municipalities to discuss interventions for effective regulatory framework for mechanical, infrastructural and operational standards for coastal WWTWs and pump stations</li> </ul>	DWS / local authority engagements are monitored and implemented	
Reduction in the number of coastal mining activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline data collection of reported illegal sand mining sites in Eastern Cape and KZN</li> <li>• Elevate this matter to the NATJOINTS Priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in the number of areas being illegal mined in comparison to baseline mapping</li> </ul>	2026

	<p>Committee on Illegal Mining to request support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder engagements</li> <li>• Joint operations</li> </ul>		
Reduction in the areas impacted by illegal developments within the coastal zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping of areas impacted by illegal developments within the coastal zone</li> <li>• Development of enforcement strategy based on prioritization and targeting approach</li> <li>• Joint operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in illegal development within the targeted areas</li> </ul>	2026



# ALIGNMENT AND CONSISTENCY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES

This chapter provides comprehensive guidance for coastal provinces and municipalities to align their coastal management programmes and this NCMP. The recommendations ensure vertical and horizontal integration of coastal management efforts across all spheres of government while accommodating local contexts and needs.

## Purpose and Scope

The successful implementation of integrated coastal management in South Africa requires coordinated action across all spheres of government. This chapter provides specific guidance to provinces and municipalities on:

- Alignment of provincial and municipal CMPs with the NCMP
- Integration of coastal management objectives into broader planning frameworks
- Establishment of effective institutional arrangements
- Development of implementation strategies

## Legal Framework

The ICM Act requires provincial and municipal coastal management programmes to be consistent with:

- The National Coastal Management Programme
- Provincial Spatial Development Frameworks
- Municipal Integrated Development Plans
- Other relevant statutory plans

## PROVINCIAL ALIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

### Strategic Framework Alignment

Provincial Coastal Management Programmes must demonstrate clear alignment with:

#### National Priority Areas

- Coastal access
- Coastal planning and development
- Climate change and dynamic coastal processes
- Land and marine-based sources of pollution
- Estuarine management
- Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction
- Natural resource management
- Economic development
- Capacity development and awareness

#### Implementation Mechanisms

- Clear designation of institutional responsibilities
- Resource allocation frameworks
- Monitoring and evaluation systems
- Reporting structures

## Provincial Responsibilities

Provinces must:



a) **Policy Integration**

- Incorporate NCMP objectives into provincial development strategies
- Align sectoral policies with coastal management priorities
- Ensure vertical integration with national and municipal programmes

b) **Institutional Arrangements**

- Establish Provincial Coastal Committees
- Designate lead agencies for coastal management
- Create inter-departmental coordination mechanisms

c) **Resource Management**

- Develop provincial coastal management strategies
- Implement estuarine management plans
- Coordinate MPAs within provincial jurisdiction

d) **Monitoring and Reporting**

- Establish provincial monitoring systems
- Regular reporting on implementation progress
- Maintain coastal management information systems

## **MUNICIPAL ALIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS**

### **Integration with Municipal Planning**

#### **Spatial Planning Integration**

- Incorporate coastal management zones into municipal spatial development frameworks
- Align zoning schemes with coastal management objectives
- Integrate coastal management lines into planning decisions

#### **Development Planning**

- Include coastal management priorities in IDPs
- Align budget allocation with coastal management needs
- Develop municipal coastal management programmes

## Municipal Implementation Requirements

### a) Institutional Framework

- Establish Municipal Coastal Committees
- Designate coastal management officers
- Create inter-departmental working groups

### b) Operational Alignment

- Develop municipal by-laws aligned with NCMP objectives
- Implement local coastal access management
- Enforce coastal regulations

### c) Community Engagement

- Establish stakeholder engagement mechanisms
- Promote public awareness and education
- facilitate local coastal forums

## ALIGNMENT MECHANISMS

### Planning Tools

- Coastal Management Programme Development Guidelines
- Spatial Planning Integration Frameworks
- Implementation Action Plans
- Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks

### Coordination Structures

- Inter-governmental Forums
- Technical Working Groups
- Stakeholder Advisory Committees
- Information Sharing Platforms

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

### Step-by-Step Alignment Process

#### 1. Assessment Phase

- Review existing programmes and policies
- Identify gaps and misalignments
- Assess resource requirements

## 2. **Planning Phase**

- Develop alignment strategy
- Set priorities and timeframes
- Allocate resources

## 3. **Implementation Phase**

- Execute alignment activities
- Monitor progress
- Adjust strategies as needed

## 4. **Review Phase**

- Evaluate effectiveness
- Report on progress
- Update programmes as required

### **Key Success Factors**

- Political commitment and leadership
- Adequate resource allocation
- Stakeholder engagement
- Technical capacity
- Regular monitoring and evaluation

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

### **Performance Indicators**

- Alignment with NCMP objectives
- Implementation progress
- Stakeholder satisfaction
- Environmental outcomes

- Socio-economic benefits

### **Reporting Requirements**

- Annual progress reports
- Mid-term evaluations
- Implementation reviews
- Outcome assessments

## **SUPPORT MECHANISMS**

### **Technical Support**

- Guidelines and templates
- Training programmes
- Advisory services
- Best practice sharing

### **Financial Support**

- Funding mechanisms
- Resource mobilization strategies
- Public-private partnerships
- Grant programmes

## **REVIEW AND ADAPTATION**

### **Regular Review Process**

- Annual performance reviews
- Mid-term programme evaluations
- Five-year comprehensive assessments
- Alignment updates

### **Adaptation Mechanisms**

- Programme adjustment procedures
- Emergency response protocols
- Innovation incorporation

- Lessons learned integration

Successful implementation of the NCMP requires dedicated effort and coordination across all spheres of government. These alignment recommendations provide a framework for ensuring that provincial and municipal coastal management activities contribute effectively to national coastal management objectives while addressing local needs and priorities.



## CONCLUSIONS

The National Coastal Management Programme 2025-2030 represents South Africa's renewed commitment to integrated coastal management and sustainable development of our coastal resources. This updated programme builds on past achievements while adapting to emerging Complexities and opportunities.

### **Key Achievements and Progress**

The implementation of the previous NCMP has resulted in several significant achievements:

- Expansion of Marine Protected Areas network
- Development of coastal management lines in multiple provinces
- Implementation of estuary management plans
- Enhanced public access to coastal areas
- Improved coordination between spheres of government
- Strengthened compliance and enforcement mechanisms

### **Emerging Complexities**

However, significant complexities remain:



- Climate change impacts and coastal vulnerability
- Increasing development pressure on coastal ecosystems
- Resource constraints for implementation
- Capacity limitations at provincial and municipal levels
- Complex stakeholder coordination requirements
- Growing pollution concerns
- Enforcement Complexities in remote areas

### **Strategic Priorities Moving Forward**

The NCMP 2025-2030 addresses these complexities through:

1. Enhanced focus on climate change adaptation and resilience
2. Strengthened institutional arrangements for implementation
3. Improved monitoring and evaluation systems on marine, coastal and estuarine habitats and species.
4. Greater emphasis on stakeholder engagement and partnerships
5. Integration of new technologies and innovative solutions
6. Enhanced support for provincial and municipal implementation

### **Implementation Framework**

Success in achieving the NCMP's objectives requires:

- Sustained political commitment and leadership
- Adequate resource allocation
- Strong institutional coordination
- Active stakeholder participation
- Regular monitoring and adaptation
- Continuous capacity building
- Innovation in management approaches

### **Resource Mobilization**

The implementation of this programme requires:

- Diverse funding sources including government allocations, donor funding, and private sector investments
- Efficient use of existing resources

- Innovative financing mechanisms
- Strategic partnerships
- Cost-sharing arrangements

## **Way Forward**

The path ahead focuses on:

### **1. Immediate Actions (2025-2026)**

- Establishment of implementation structures
- Resource mobilization
- Capacity building initiatives
- Priority project initiation

### **2. Medium-Term Goals (2027-2028)**

- Full operational implementation
- Enhanced monitoring systems
- Stakeholder engagement programs
- Review and adaptation mechanisms

### **3. Long-Term Objectives (2029-2030)**

- Achievement of set targets
- System optimization
- Preparation for next cycle
- Legacy planning

## **Success Factors**

Critical success factors include:

- Strong political will and support
- Adequate financial and human resources
- Effective stakeholder engagement
- Robust monitoring and evaluation
- Adaptive management approaches
- Technical capacity and expertise
- Coordination across sectors

## **Final Remarks**

The NCMP 2025-2030 provides a comprehensive framework for integrated coastal management in South Africa. Its success depends on the collective effort of all stakeholders - government at all levels, the private sector, civil society, and coastal communities. The programme recognizes that our coast is a national asset that requires careful stewardship to ensure its sustainability for future generations.

Through dedicated implementation of this programme, South Africa can achieve its vision of sustainable coastal development that balances ecological integrity with social and economic development. The next five years are crucial in determining the long-term sustainability of our coastal resources and the communities that depend on them.

As we move forward, the commitment to adaptive management ensures that the programme remains responsive to emerging dynamics while maintaining focus on its core objectives. The success of this programme will be measured not only by the achievement of its specific targets but also by the lasting positive impact it creates for coastal communities and ecosystems.

Through continued collaboration, innovation, and dedication to the principles of integrated coastal management, we can ensure that South Africa's coastal zone remains a source of pride, prosperity, and opportunity for all South Africans, now and in the future.







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