

PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)

AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE BENGUELA MUDS AND CAPE CANYON MARINE PROTECTED AREAS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Dr Dion Travers George, has released draft management plans for the Benguela Muds Marine Protected Areas and the Cape Canyon Marine Protected Area (MPA) for public comment. The draft management plans for the two MPAs have been prepared in accordance with sections 39, 40 and 41 of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003). The management plans do not give or take away rights in the MPAs. The management plans are an important tool for the collective management of the MPAs and are a key planning tool for the current and future management of MPAs.

The draft MPA management plans are available for public comment for a period of **thirty (30) days** after the publication of this notice in the newspaper. Any comments received after the specified timeframe may be disregarded.

Comments on the draft management plans may be submitted in writing to the following:

By post: The Deputy Director-General: Oceans and Coasts, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Private Bag X4390, Cape Town, 8001, **Attention: Ms. Ntombovuyo Madlokazi.**

By email: nmadlokazi@dffe.gov.za.

Hand-delivery: The Deputy Director-General: Oceans and Coasts, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, 2 East Pier Building, East Pier Road, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, **Attention: Ms. Ntombovuyo Madlokazi.**

Any queries about the plans or this process can be directed to **Ms. Ntombovuyo Madlokazi** at **082 865 6848** or via email at nmadlokazi@dffe.gov.za.

Copies of the draft management plans can be downloaded from the Department's website: https://www.dffe.gov.za/oc_strategyframework or obtained electronically upon request by email to nmadlokazi@dffe.gov.za and a hard copy can be accessed at the Department's offices at **2 East Pier Road, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town.**

For communications or media enquiries kindly contact Mr. Peter Mbelengwa: Chief Director: of Communication and Advocacy on Tel: (012) 399 8842 / Cell: 082 611 8197 / Email: PMbelengwa@dffe.gov.za

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 thereto will be included in a comments and response report which may be made available to the public. If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name, or the name of the represented company/organization, being made publicly available in any comments and responses report, such objection should be highlighted as part of the comments submitted.