



## 20 NEW OPERATION PHAKISA MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Operation Phakisa Marine Protected Areas	Unique features
Orange Shelf Edge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only un-trawled sandy shelf edge in region.</li> <li>• Feeding grounds for threatened seabirds and life history importance for sharks.</li> <li>• Hake fishery eco-certification which is important for economic benefits, food and job security</li> </ul>
Namaqua Fossil Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique fossilised yellowwood forest with sensitive cold water corals and unprotected muds and sponge gardens.</li> <li>• Provides information about past climate.</li> <li>• Protects fishing grounds and hake nursery area from mining impacts.</li> </ul>
Namaqua National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First protection for the Namaqua ecosystem types and a priority estuary.</li> <li>• Protects hake nursery habitat and supports recovery of West Coast Rock Lobster.</li> <li>• Important ecotourism area.</li> </ul>
Childs Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique and sensitive seabed feature.</li> <li>• Only MPA with <i>Lophelia pertusa</i> corals.</li> <li>• Hake fishery eco-certification support (helps manage bycatch and habitat damage)</li> </ul>
Benguela Muds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First protection of critically endangered mud habitat in good condition.</li> <li>• Important for eco-certification of the hake fishery.</li> <li>• The entire habitat type within the trawl footprint but this part lightly fished (less impact on fishers).</li> </ul>
Cape Canyon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threatened, unprotected canyon habitat vulnerable to trawling and mining impact.</li> <li>• Best option to protect canyon (less socio-economic cost than canyon off Cape Point).</li> <li>• Important feeding ground for whales and seabirds.</li> <li>• Important for sustainability of small pelagic and hake fisheries.</li> <li>• Eco-tourism potential e.g. whale watching</li> </ul>
Robben Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breeding and feeding area for endangered seabirds.</li> <li>• Contributes to recovery of Abalone and West Coast Rock Lobster.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important tourism area and for cultural heritage</li> </ul>
Southeast Atlantic Seamounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First protection of South Africa's Seamount ecosystems.</li> <li>• Feeding grounds for critically endangered albatross.</li> <li>• Key area for climate adaptation and mitigation</li> </ul>
Brown Bank Corals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hake spawning area.</li> <li>• Cold water corals hold climate record and provide refuge for eggs and larvae.</li> <li>• Hake fishery eco-certification support contributes to food and job security</li> </ul>
Agulhas Bank Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish spawning and important nursery area.</li> <li>• Spawning aggregations for red steenbras (world's largest seabream found only in South Africa).</li> <li>• Ecotourism area with catch and release marlin fishing and shark diving.</li> <li>• Important area for small scale fisheries (accommodated in half of MPA) and recovery of linefish.</li> <li>• Protects parts of fishing grounds and nursery area from mining impacts and petroleum activities</li> </ul>
Agulhas Muds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critically endangered mud habitat in good condition (trawled and wellheads over most of this area).</li> <li>• Support for hake fishery eco-certification.</li> </ul>
Southwest Indian Seamounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate resilience MPA with 2000m depth range &amp; coral habitats.</li> <li>• First protection for Indian Ocean Seamount</li> <li>• Nursery area for Makoshark</li> </ul>
Agulhas Front	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core feeding ground for critically endangered leatherback turtles and seabirds.</li> <li>• High deepsea habitat diversity</li> </ul>
Port Elizabeth Corals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingklip (valuable fisheries resource) gather to spawn in this MPA.</li> <li>• Unique geological feature (deepsea ridge) and coral ecosystems.</li> <li>• Sensitive area where seismic surveys, mining and trawling should not take place</li> </ul>
Addo Elephant National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important ecotourism node with close encounters with bottlenose dolphins; Brydes, Minke, Humpback and Right Whales and Orcas.</li> <li>• Endangered seabirds (St. Croix and Bird</li> </ul>



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	<p>Island hold about 9 000 breeding pairs of endangered African penguins and Bird Island has approximately 60 000 breeding pairs of Cape gannets).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algoa Bay has the highest percentage of endemic (found nowhere else on earth) marine species</li> </ul>
Amathole Offshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First protection for many unprotected ecosystem types trawled elsewhere in the Agulhas Ecoregion.</li> <li>Threatened canyon in good condition i.e. the spectacular Gxulu canyon inshore of which the first coelacanth was caught.</li> <li>Sensitive lace corals found only in the area.</li> <li>Only MPA to include habitat of valuable South Coast Rock Lobster</li> </ul>
Protea Banks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Important ecotourism area with sardine run and 7 shark species aggregate in this area.</li> <li>3 submarine canyons and unique deep reefs of Protea Banks.</li> </ul>
Aliwal Shoal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eco-tourism area with shark diving.</li> <li>MPA brings new tourism development, links to Blue flag beaches, scuba operations and educational sites to amplify social benefits.</li> <li>Spawning aggregations for seventy four and key area for geelbek and dusky kob.</li> </ul>
uThukela	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical Biodiversity Area - requires protection of threatened habitats (muds, gravels), processes (fresh water input) &amp; species</li> <li>Key area for linefish recovery, small scale fisheries, prawns and migrating whales.</li> <li>Spawning and nursery areas for overexploited species e.g., squaretail kob.</li> <li>Area supports bycatch management in crustacean trawl fishery and protects hammerhead sharks in their nursery area</li> </ul>
iSimangaliso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turtle feeding and nesting area and important for Coelacanth and their canyon habitats.</li> <li>Alignment with World Heritage Site boundaries.</li> <li>MPA supports prawn trawl bycatch management and protects slinger and rockcod aggregations to deliver fisheries benefits</li> </ul>