

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 94

03 FEBRUARY 2016

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003  
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****DRAFT NOTICE DECLARING THE ISIMANGALISO MARINE PROTECTED AREA  
UNDER SECTION 22A OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT:  
PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)**

I, Bomo Edith Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, hereby publish for public comment, in terms of section 22B of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), the intention to withdraw the existing St Lucia and Maputaland Marine Protected Areas declared in stipulations 2(11) and 2(12) of *Government Gazette* 21948, Notice No. 1429 of 29 December 2000, and to declare under section 22A of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area as set out in the Schedule hereto.

Any person who wishes to submit representations or comments in connection with the proposed declaration is invited to do so within 90 days from the date of publication in the *Government Gazette* and by no later than 16h00 on the last day. Comments received after this time may not be considered. All representations and comments must be submitted in writing to the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Branch Oceans and Coasts:

**By post to:** The Deputy Director-General  
Environmental Affairs  
Oceans and Coasts  
Attention: Xola Mkefe  
P.O Box 52126  
V and A Waterfront, Cape Town  
8002

**By hand:** East Pier Building 2, East Pier Road, V&A Waterfront,  
Cape Town

**By e-mail to:** MPARegs@environment.gov.za  
**Enquiries:** Xola Mkefe 021 819 2466



**BOMO EDITH EDNA MOLEWA  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

## SCHEDULE

All geographic co-ordinates are determined in accordance with the *WGS 84* datum, and all bearings are true bearings as set out in Annexure 1 hereto.

### Boundaries of the Marine Protected Area

The iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area in KwaZulu-Natal is a coastal and offshore Marine Protected Area stretching from the South Africa-Mozambique border in the north where it extends approximately 34 nautical miles offshore; to Cape St Lucia Lighthouse in the south where it extends approximately 58 nautical miles offshore. The iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area is bounded by straight lines sequentially joining the following four coordinates: (A) 26°51'30.92"S; 32°53'27.24"E; (B) 26°59'22.02"S, 33°27'21.95"E; (C) 28°31'19.59"S, 33°27'45.32"E; (D) 28°31'10.45"S; 32°24'3.52"E, and then back to point A along the high water mark, excluding estuaries.

### Purpose

The purpose for declaring the Marine Protected Area is:

- a) To contribute to a national and global representative system of marine protected areas, by providing protection for sites of special sensitivity and sites that are critically endangered; and by providing a large contiguous conservation area which links inshore marine habitats with those further offshore;
- b) to contribute to sustainable marine and coastal ecotourism through the zonation for activities which yield socio-economic benefits on the local and national scales;
- c) to facilitate fisheries management by protecting spawning stock, allowing stock recovery, and enhancing stock abundance in adjacent areas, in particular, for reef fish and large pelagic fish;
- d) for the protection of fauna and flora or a particular species of fauna or flora and the physical features on which they depend, including the canyons which constitute known and potential Coelacanth habitat, vulnerable benthic habitats, including cold water corals and areas which are important migratory corridors for humpback whales and whale sharks and breeding and foraging areas for several turtle species; and
- e) to provide reference sites for research, including areas in good ecological condition and areas which may show most clearly the impacts of climate change.

## Annexure 1

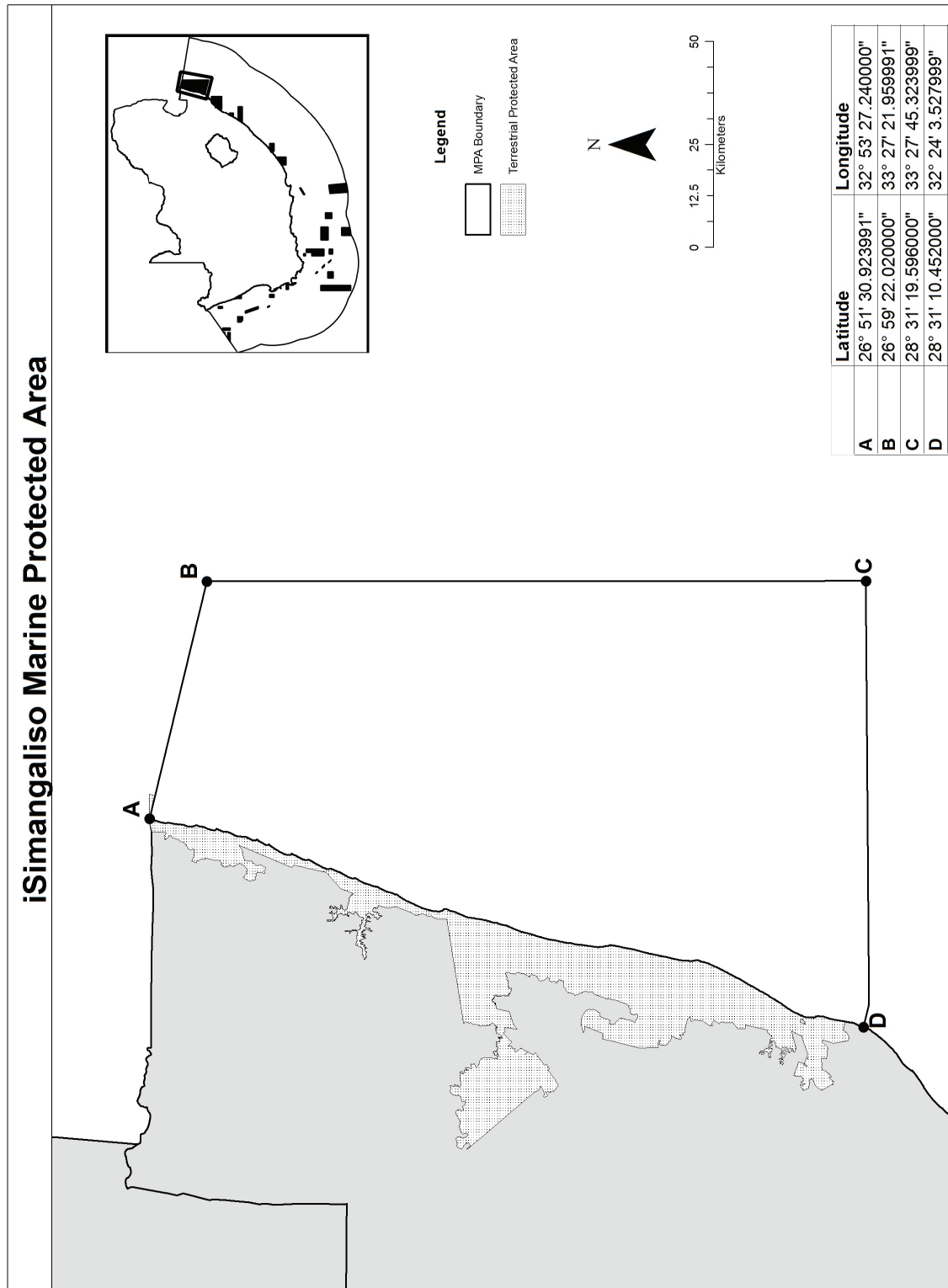


Fig. 1. The proposed boundaries for the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area.