

GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. 1395

01 NOVEMBER 2019

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 2008
(ACT NO. 24 OF 2008)****DRAFT UMWHLATHUZE/RICHARDS BAY ESTUARINE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, hereby invite members of the public to comment on the draft uMhlathuze/Richards Bay Estuarine Management Plan (EMP) in terms of section 34(1)(a) read with section 53(1)(c) of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (No. 24 of 2008). Copies of the draft EMP can be downloaded from the website: https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices or can be obtained electronically upon request by email to Rupillay@environment.gov.za.

The EMP is an integrated management planning tool used to understand the ecological health conditions, conservation and biodiversity aspects, and key pressures on estuaries. Its primary intention is to coordinate the implementation of the identified key actions to improve the estuary's ecological health status and ensure goods and services are maintained to support socio-economic benefits. The uMhlathuze/ Richards Bay EMP has identified major threats as impact of sea level rise on mangroves; deterioration of water quality and water abstraction, exploitation of resources (sand mining, harvesting of mangroves, fish) and loss of habitat. This EMP seeks to facilitate cooperative management amongst key sector departments and relevant stakeholders through the implementation of a shared vision and objectives of this plan to improve these estuaries.

Members of the public are invited to submit written representations or objections on the draft EMP, within 30 (thirty) days after the publication of this notice in the *Gazette*, written representations on or objections to the draft EMP 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 Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Branch Oceans and Coasts:

By hand: The Deputy Director-General
Attention: Mr. R Pillay
Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries
Branch: Oceans & Coasts
2 East Pier Building, East Pier Road
Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town
By e-mail to: Rupillay@environment.gov.za

By post to: The Deputy Director-General
Attention: Mr. R Pillay
Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries
Branch: Oceans & Coasts
P.O. Box X4390
Cape Town, 8000



BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES