Taxonomy, Ecosystem classification & Mapping
DNA Barcoding & population genetics
Applied Research & Monitoring
Decision making tools & Science based advice

National Biodiversity Assessment 2011
An assessment of South Africa’s biodiversity and ecosystems
Synthesis Report

Policy advice: Marine Alien and Invasive Species, March 2014

Proposed seabed management areas
Existing Programmes that generate / disseminate foundational biodiversity information
June 23rd, Thursday, 1898.

Mossel Bay.—Left anchored side and put away trawl with N. 85° W. about 5 miles. Shot trawl at 10 a.m., and herrings procured:—Soles 120, kabangas 28, electric skate 10, net on surface spoiled by case side and getting into net. Head line of trawl gave 20 sagitta, young nyctiphantes at 78.) There were scarcely any dozen pycnogonids and one P. No. 77 and 81.) Second hawl St. Blaize W. by N. ½ N. 8½ and hove up at 2·30 p.m.
Citizen science

Molecular research

Taxonomy and digitisation

Decision support tools

Applied Research & Monitoring

Science based management & policy

Blue Economy
Atlantic

The secrets of the Atlantic are revealed in summer. Its soaring granite walls, deep fissures and historic wrecks are vivid when 20m visibility can uncover noble corals, jewel-bright nudibranchs, neon sponges, electric anemones, beautiful basketstars and playful seals. A rich reward for divers who dare to brave its chilly waters.

DIVE South Africa

Southern and Eastern Cape

The fertile reefs of the Southern and Eastern Cape have many endemic species – found only in this area. Think Krysta seahorses, shy horsefishes, salt and pepper catsharks, shimmering anemones, iridescent basketstars, and even butterflyfish can be seen. Whales give birth here, and ragged-tooth sharks, penguins and gannets hunt for fish. And then there’s the Chokka Run – thousands of squid lay their eggs on the seabed amid feeding predators.

Wild Coast

Divers along the Wild coast spend more time in the big blue than on the rugged reefs. Winter is showtime for the Great White Shark on Earth, when millions of sardines head up the coast to feed and spawn. Many predators are drawn to the bottlenose. The spectacle of a big bull being attacked by dolphins, sharks, gannets and pelicans, with the whale’s hump visible nowhere else in the world.

False Bay

Temperate reefs teeming with sponges, sea anemones and fish resemble an Old Master painting of rich maroons, oranges and greens. Visiting right whales congregate underwater while resident seven-gilled sharks roam through kelp forests. Divers can explore the outstanding biodiversity of the reefs, investigate mysterious wrecks or dive with our white, blue and mako sharks.

Sodwana

The crystal clear waters of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a World Heritage Site, offer excellent diving all year round. The sub tropical reefs are a diver’s dream with an abundance of brightly coloured reef fish, tropical corals, sea horses, breeding turtles, massive marbled rays, ragged-tooth and whale sharks. And...daring divers experience resident bottlenose dolphins in deep ancient shorelines and submarine canyons.

Kwa-Zulu Natal

South Coast

Divers are spoilt for choice in the warmer waters of KwaZulu-Natal. Beautiful nudibranchs glide over a kaleidoscope of iridescent seaweed and soft corals. Breeding ragged-tooth sharks hang out at Cathedral, tiger sharks frequent the currents at Protea Banks, and boulder bass hunt on the wreck of the Protea. Scorpionfish look on as visiting humpback whales, dolphins and eagle rays swim overhead.
Please help improve our understanding of regional jellyfish diversity and distribution
Photos by Geoff Spiby, Peter Timm, Lara Atkinson, Georgina Jones & Charlie Griffiths
Sea Slug Atlas

Photos by Colin Odgen, Guido Zsilavecz, Johan Breytenbach, Geoff Spiby
Coral, Seafan and Anemone Atlas

Photos by Peter Timm, Geoff Spiby, Guido Zsilavecz & Eve Marshall
Mr. Claude Wharton-Hood with his 104 lb. R Steenbras caught on rod and line from a boat Smithwinkel Bay, 3 February, 1923
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