Unlocking obstacles in the Phakisa expansion of South Africa's Marine Protected Areas

Siyasanga Miza, Tsamaelo Malebu, Kerry Sink
Outline

➢ Part 1
• Introduction
  ✔ Phakisa-”BIG fast ambitious results”

  • Marine Protection Services & Governance LAB
    ✔ MPA representative network- Initiative 8

  • Target milestones
    ✔ Stakeholder engagements

➢ Part 2
• Case studies
Introduction - Operation Phakisa

Presidential initiative → Results-driven approach → Plans, & targets set → Bringing results to the public
Four growth areas were selected to be discussed in the Operation Phakisa Labs:

1. Marine transport and manufacturing
2. Offshore oil and gas exploration
3. Aquaculture
4. Marine protection services and governance
The MPSG Lab aspired to implement an overarching, integrated governance framework for sustainable growth of the ocean economy to maximise socio-economic benefits while ensuring adequate ocean environmental protection within the next five years by:

**Objectives**

- Governance plan
- Protection from all illegal activities
- Socio-economic benefits (MPA creation)
- National Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Framework
  - Regional (Sub-national) MSP Framework
  - Small-scale Marine Spatial (MS) Management Plan
## 10 MPSG Lab Initiatives

### Integrated Framework & Governance

1. Ministerial Committee & Secretariat to Govern Activities
2. Enhancement of Legislation into the ICOM Act or Oceans Act
3. Review of ocean related legislation
4. Accelerated Capacity Building Intervention in Ocean Governance

### Ocean Protection

5. Enhanced and Coordinated Enforcement Programme
8. Creation of a MPA Representative Network
9. MPA Research, Monitoring & Capacity Building Programme

### Marine Spatial Planning

10. Marine Spatial Planning Process

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**Integrated Ocean Governance & Protection**
25 Industry Activities – fishing, mining, shipping
>90% cover
## Stakeholder engagements - In-Lab

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### Activities within MPAs
- Overlap with industry interests
- New info that was not considered
- Small-scale fisheries policy
- Commenting period further

MPA's
Stakeholder engagements - Post-lab

Overlaps with mining rights
Overlaps with highly prospective areas
Overlaps with planned seismic surveys
New info

Oil & Gas
Fisheries
Tourism

Zonation benefits & impacts

Overlaps with fisheries
Recreational fishing
Solution
Addressing stakeholder concerns

- Zonation
- Additional Engagements
- Workshops
- Re-engagement & plan revision
- Invitation of comment & evaluation
- Boundary adjustments
- alternative areas

MPA’s
Final Map

Phakisa Proposed Marine Protected Area Network

- Orange Shelf Edge
- Namaqua Fossil Forest
- Namaqua Coast
- Childs Bank
- Benguela bank
- Benguela Muds
- Cape Caynon
- Port Nolloth
- Hondelipbaai
- Lamberts Bay
- Saldanha
- Cape Town
- Mossel Bay
- Port Elizabeth
- East London
- Port St. Johns
- Durban
- St. Lucia

- Robben Island
- Southeast Atlantic Seamounts
- Browns Bank Corals
- Browns Bank Complex
- Agulhas Bank Complex
- Agulhas Mud
- Southwest Indian Seamounts
- uThukela MPA
- iSimangaliso Expansion
- Agulhas Front
- Port Elizabeth Corals
- Amathole Expansion
- Protea Banks
- Aliwal Shoal Expansion

- Existing Marine Protected Areas
- Addo Proposed MPA
- Previous proposed MPA boundaries
Highlights refining MPA boundaries

Part 2
Marine Protected Areas network

Phakisa Proposed Marine Protected Area Network

1 Orange Shelf Edge
2 Namaqua Fossil Forest
3 Namaqua Coast
4 Childs Bank
5 Benguela bank
6 Benguela Muds
7 Cape Caynon
8 Robben Island
9 Southeast Atlantic Seamounts
10 Browns Bank Corals
11 Browns Bank Complex
12 Agulhas Bank Complex
13 Agulhas Mud
14 Southwest Indian Seamounts
15 Agulhas Front
16 Port Elizabeth Corals
17 Amathole Expansion
18 Protea Banks
19 Aliwal Shoal Expansion
20 uThukela MPA
21 iSimangaliso Wetland Park Expansion

Existing Marine Protected Areas
Addo Proposed MPA
Orange shelf Edge

Area was selected because it is the last remaining area of Southern Benguela Sandy Shelf Edge, a threatened ecosystem in good condition. It is untrawled and known to be a Blue shark aggregation site.
Stakeholder engagements

Through engagement with affected sectors:

- 4 petroleum rights holder & Fisheries
- Best suitable design was developed to minimize overlap key areas
- Balance impact MPA across rights holders

Proposed Orange Shelf Edge MPA

Proposed MPA boundaries
Final MPA boundary

Benthic and coastal habitat types:
- South Atlantic Lower Bathyal
- South Atlantic Upper Bathyal
- Southern Benguela Carbonate Mound
- Southern Benguela Hard Outer Shelf
- Southern Benguela Hard Shelf Edge
- Southern Benguela Sandy Outer Shelf
- Southern Benguela Sandy Shelf Edge
Marine Protected Areas network
Southwest Indian Seamounts

Area emerged as a priority in two systematic plans;

- Offshore MPA project & National Biodiversity Assessment (based on datasets that it avoids conflict with industry)
- It is the only option to protect Agulhas Muddy Shelf Edge in good condition
- Is important for other unprotected benthic and pelagic habitats including seamounts
Stakeholder engagements

Engaging with key sectors

- Better datasets available and enhance the knowledge about features

However due to highly prospective areas:

- High refractive zone
- Malory seamount and the areas on the northern flanks of the seamounts are of highest priority
Marine Protected Areas network
iSimangaliso Wetland Park Expansion

Area was driven by:
- need to protect foraging area of nesting turtles, entire canyon and coelacanth habitats
- cold water coral reefs that are currently outside of the existing MPAs
- spatially efficient as it builds onto two existing MPAs (i.e. St Lucia and Maputaland MPAs) protected within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage site
Stakeholder engagements

Area was designed to facilitate integrated management, allowing border protection and environmental protection.

However, the challenges faced with protection were that it was not easy to enforce it.

Latitude & Longitude
Key challenges & boundary change

• Conflict - Overlapping with highly prospective areas due to the nature of leases

• Avoid fishing areas

• Protection of key habitat types that are threatened

• Compliance concerns, request for straight lines of latitude and longitude for boundaries and need for a communication strategy was raised

• Data gaps
✓ Stakeholder consultation – **Engagement** to understand concerns, constraint and opportunities

✓ Transparent process -open science based process (biodiversity, petroleum & fisheries data)

✓ Knowledge sharing towards the development of the MPA
  • Collaborative approach goals to address data gap issues and research

✓ Good practise towards development
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Stakeholder influences in the Phakisa Process

- South Africa’s Small-scale Fisheries Policy
- Socio-economic data and population distributions
- The National Development Plan
- Offshore industrial activity
- Industrial Development Zones
- Aquaculture projects
- Other Phakisa initiatives from the Oil & Gas, Maritime transport & Aquaculture sectors
- Lessons learnt from previous MPA establishment process
- The importance of MPAs in detecting, understanding and adapting to climate change

- Feedback from commercial and recreational fishers, petroleum rights holders, marine mining rights holders & tourism