



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT NOTICES AND REGULATIONS FOR 22 PROPOSED OPERATION PHAKISA MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

The national Department of Environmental Affairs had on 3 February 2016 published in *Government Gazette* 39646, draft notices and regulations to declare a network of 22 proposed Marine Protected Area (MPAs) as part of the Operation Phakisa initiative. The draft regulations aim to facilitate the protection of coastal and offshore ecosystems to align with targets of the National Development Plan. The following are proposed for declaration as MPAs: iSimangaliso Wetland Park, Aliwal Shoal, Agulhas Front, Cape Canyon, Childs Bank, Protea Banks, Browns Bank Complex, Benguela Bank, Browns Bank Corals, Namaqua Fossil Forest, Namaqua National Park, Robben Island, Agulhas Bank Complex, Agulhas Muds, Amathole Offshore, Addo Elephant Park, Benguela Muds, Port Elizabeth Corals, Southeast Atlantic Seamount, Southwest Indian Seamount, uThukela Banks and Orange Shelf Edge. The draft regulations for the Childs Bank MPA were published in *Government Gazette* 39705 dated 17 February 2016.

The Department hereby invite interested and affected stakeholders to participate in public consultation workshops on the draft notices and regulations for the 22 proposed MPAs. The objective of the public consultation is to enlighten stakeholders to understand the draft regulations. Please note that a detailed discussion for specific proposed MPAs will be held during specified workshops. Below are details of the workshops that will be held.

Please note that where venues have not yet been confirmed, they are marked as "TBC". Where this is the case, public notices will be placed in those areas to advise the public of the venue, once it is confirmed.

<b>CITY/TOWN</b>	<b>DATE, TIME</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>MPA OF INTEREST</b>
St Lucia	8 March 2016, 10H00-15H00	St Lucia-Town Hall	iSimangaliso Wetland Park
Cape Town	11 March 2016, 09H00	Kirstenbosch, Colophon Conference Room, SANBI	All 22 MPAs
East London	16 March 2016, 10H00	Nahoon Point Nature Reserve (Mercedes Benz Educational centre)	Amathole Offshore
Port Elizabeth	17 March 2016, 10H00	Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Reception Room at City Hall	Port Elizabeth Corals and Addo Elephant Park
Springbok	31 March 2016, 10H00	Springbok-Goegap Nature Reserve	Namaqua National, Namaqua Fossil
Port Shepstone	5 April 2016, 10H00-15h00	Margate Hall, Hibiscus Coast Municipality, Margate	Protea Banks and Aliwal Shoal
Zinkwazi	6 April 2016, 10H00-15H00	Zinkwazi Lagoon Lodge, Zinkwazi	uThukela

Any person who wishes to submit comments and inputs is invited to do so by no later than 16H00 on 3 May 2016 by mail, email or by hand as specified below. In respect of the draft regulations for the proposed Childs Bank MPA, the final date for comments is 17 May 2016. Please note that comments and inputs received after the closing date may not be considered.

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

**By hand to: Department of Environmental Affairs**  
**Branch: Oceans and Coasts**  
 East Pier Building 2  
 East Pier Road  
 V & A Waterfront,  
 Cape Town

**By email:** [MPARegs@environment.gov.za](mailto:MPARegs@environment.gov.za)