

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 124

03 FEBRUARY 2016

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****DRAFT NOTICE DECLARING THE SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC SEAMOUNT
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, the intention to declare under section 22A of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), the Southeast Atlantic Seamount 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 detailed in Annexure 1 hereto.

Boundaries of the Marine Protected Area

The Southeast Atlantic Seamount Marine Protected Area in the Western Cape is an offshore Marine Protected Area in the 2000m to 4000m depth range lying approximately 94 nautical miles southwest of Gansbaai. The Southeast Atlantic Seamount Marine Protected Area is comprised of two separate areas, indicated as SEAS 1 and SEAS 2 detailed in Annexure 1 as follows:

- a) SEAS 1 is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following four coordinates: (A) 35° 53' S, 17° 55'E; (B) 35° 53' S, 18° 18' E; (C) 37° 43' S, 18° 18' E; and (D) 37° 43' S, 17° 55'E; and
- b) SEAS 2 is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following four coordinates: (A) 36° 20' S, 18° 50' E; (B) 36° 20' S, 19° 20' E; (C) 36° 40' S, 19° 20' E; and (D) 36° 40' S, 18° 50'E.

The areas include the sea bed, water column and subsoil within these boundaries.

Purpose

The purpose for declaring this Marine Protected Area is:

- (a) To contribute to a national and global representative system of marine protected areas by providing protection to the benthic and pelagic ecosystems of the slope and abyss of this region;
- (b) to conserve and protect seamount and associated ecosystems;
- (c) to conserve and protect the biodiversity and ecological processes associated with these ecosystems;
- (d) to conserve and protect an area of importance for migratory species including seabirds, turtles, sharks and other fish; and
- (e) to protect and provide an appropriate environment for research and monitoring particularly research on habitat description, habitat resilience, mapping and monitoring.

Annexure 1:

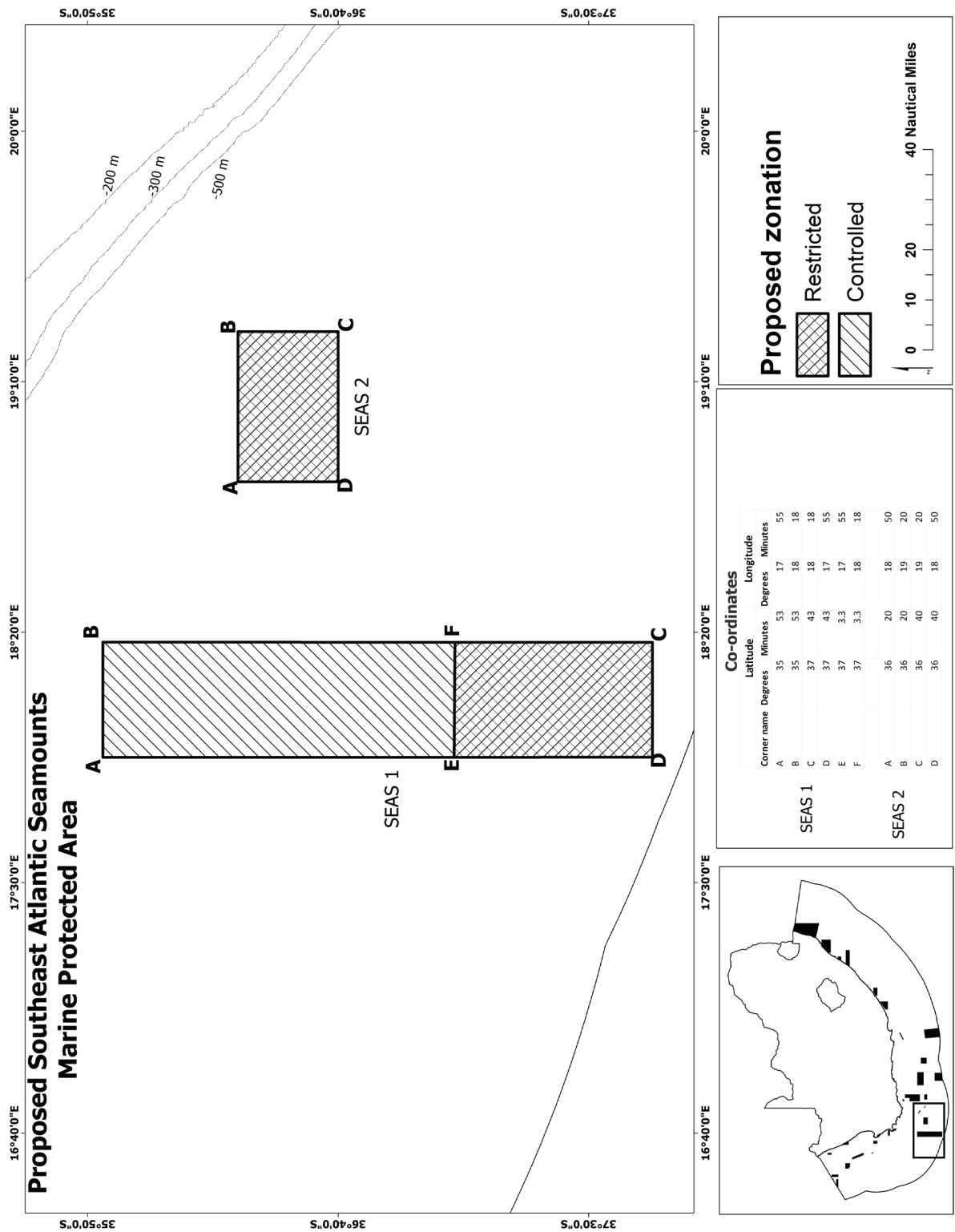


Fig. 1. The proposed boundaries for the Southeast Atlantic Seamount Marine Protected Area

Table 1. The exact geographic coordinates (WGS 84) of points SEAS 1 A-D and SEAS 2 A-D in Fig 1.

	Corner name	X (East) Decimal Degrees	Y (South) Decimal Degrees	X (East) Degrees	X (East) Minutes	Y (South) Degrees	Y (South) Minutes
Southeast Atlantic Seamounts (1)	A	17.9167	-35.8833	17	55.000	35	53.000
	B	18.3000	-35.8833	18	18.000	35	53.000
	C	18.3000	-37.7167	18	18.000	37	43.000
	D	17.9167	-37.7167	17	55.000	37	43.000
Southeast Atlantic Seamounts (2)	A	18.8333	-36.3333	18	50.000	36	20.000
	B	19.3333	-36.3333	19	20.000	36	20.000
	C	19.3333	-36.6667	19	20.000	36	40.000
	D	18.8333	-36.6667	18	50.000	36	40.000