

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. 767

23 MAY 2019

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****NOTICE DECLARING THE NAMAQUA FOSSIL FOREST MARINE PROTECTED
AREA IN TERMS OF SECTION 22A OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)**

I, Nomvula Paula Mokonyane, Minister of Environmental Affairs, hereby declare, in terms of section 22A of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), the Namaqua Fossil Forest Marine Protected Area as set out in the Schedule hereto.



**NOMVULA PAULA MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

SCHEDULE

All geographic co-ordinates are determined in accordance with the *WGS 84* datum.

Boundaries of the Marine Protected Area

The Namaqua Fossil Forest Marine Protected Area in the Northern Cape is an offshore Marine Protected Area in the 120 m to 150 m depth range lying approximately 15 nautical miles offshore of the coastal area between Port Nolloth and Kleinsee. The Namaqua Fossil Forest Marine Protected Area is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following coordinates: A, B, C and D. The area includes the substrata, sea bed, subsoil and water column within these boundaries.

Purpose

The purpose for declaring this marine protected area is:

- (a) To contribute to a national, regional and global representative system of marine protected areas by providing protection to the benthic ecosystems of the shelf in this region;
- (b) to conserve and protect fragile ecosystems including in-situ fossilised trees and their associated cold water corals, and habitat forming sponges;
- (c) to conserve and protect ecologically sensitive biodiversity and the ecological processes associated with these features; and
- (d) to protect and provide an appropriate reference environment for research and monitoring, including climate change research; and also to promote and contribute to environmental education.

Commencement

This notice takes effect on 1 August 2019.

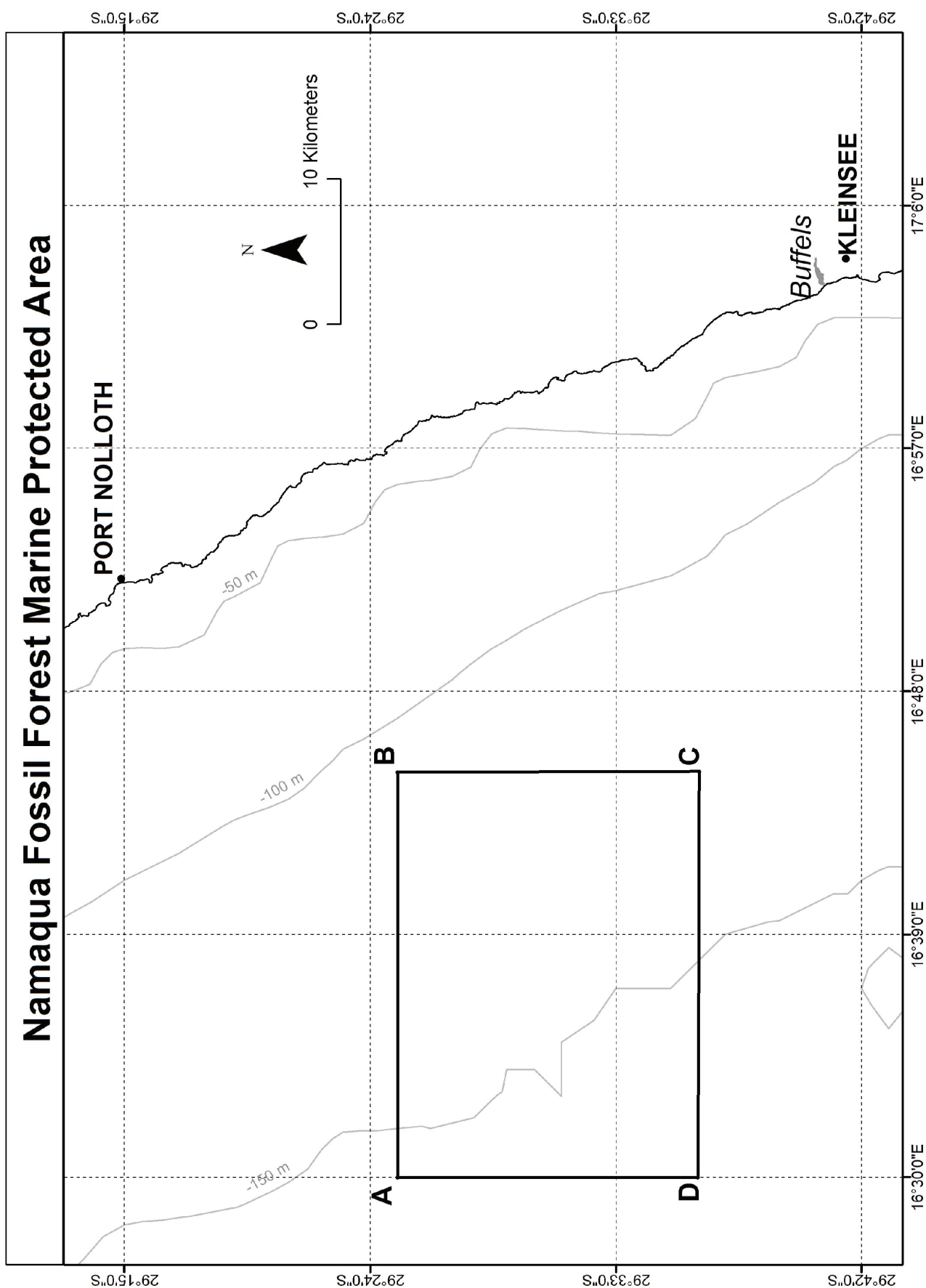
Annexure:

Table 1. The exact geographic coordinates

	POINTS	X	Y
Namaqua Fossil Forest MPA	A	16.5	-29.416667
Namaqua Fossil Forest MPA	B	16.75	-29.416667
Namaqua Fossil Forest MPA	C	16.7504	-29.600933
Namaqua Fossil Forest MPA	D	16.5	-29.6