

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. 772

23 MAY 2019

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****NOTICE DECLARING THE ISIMANGALISO 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 in terms of section 22B of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), withdraw the existing St Lucia and Maputaland Marine Protected Areas declared in stipulations 2(11) and 2(12) of *Government Gazette* 21948, Notice No. 1429 of 29 December 2000, and declare, in terms of section 22A of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003, the iSimangaliso 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 iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area in KwaZulu-Natal is a coastal and offshore Marine Protected Area stretching from the South Africa-Mozambique border in the north, to Cape St Lucia Lighthouse in the south, extending offshore to a maximum depth of almost 2000m. The iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area is bounded by straight lines sequentially joining the following coordinates: A, B, C and D, and then back to point A along the high water mark, excluding estuaries.

Purpose

The purpose for declaring the Marine Protected Area is:

- (a) To contribute to a national, regional and global representative system of marine protected areas, by providing protection to linked coastal and offshore sites in a large contiguous conservation area that includes a World Heritage Site and Ramsar Site;
- (b) to protect inshore ecosystems including the turtle nesting beaches and subtropical coral communities;
- (c) to protect offshore benthic and pelagic ecosystems, including turtle foraging and interesting area, entire submarine canyons which constitute known and potential coelacanth habitat, and vulnerable and ecologically sensitive seabed habitats, including cold water corals and sponge grounds;
- (d) to conserve and protect the biodiversity and ecological processes associated with these interconnected ecosystems;
- (e) to protect important life history areas and migratory corridors for whale sharks and other sharks, marine mammals, turtles, migratory fish and bird species;
- (f) to facilitate fisheries management by protecting spawning stock, allowing stock recovery, and enhancing stock abundance in adjacent areas, in particular, for reef fish such as slinger, scotsman and other seabreams, rockcods and large pelagic fish;
- (g) to support sustainable nature-based tourism opportunities in the area through the protection of marine wildlife;
- (h) to protect and regulate a scenic area to support sustainable nature-based tourism, cultural and spiritual assets and a functionally connected coastal-marine system to retain a land-ocean 'sense of place'; and
- (i) to provide reference sites for research and monitoring, including areas in good ecological condition and areas which may show most clearly the impacts of climate change, and also to promote and contribute to environmental education.

Commencement

This notice takes effect on 1 August 2019.

Annexure

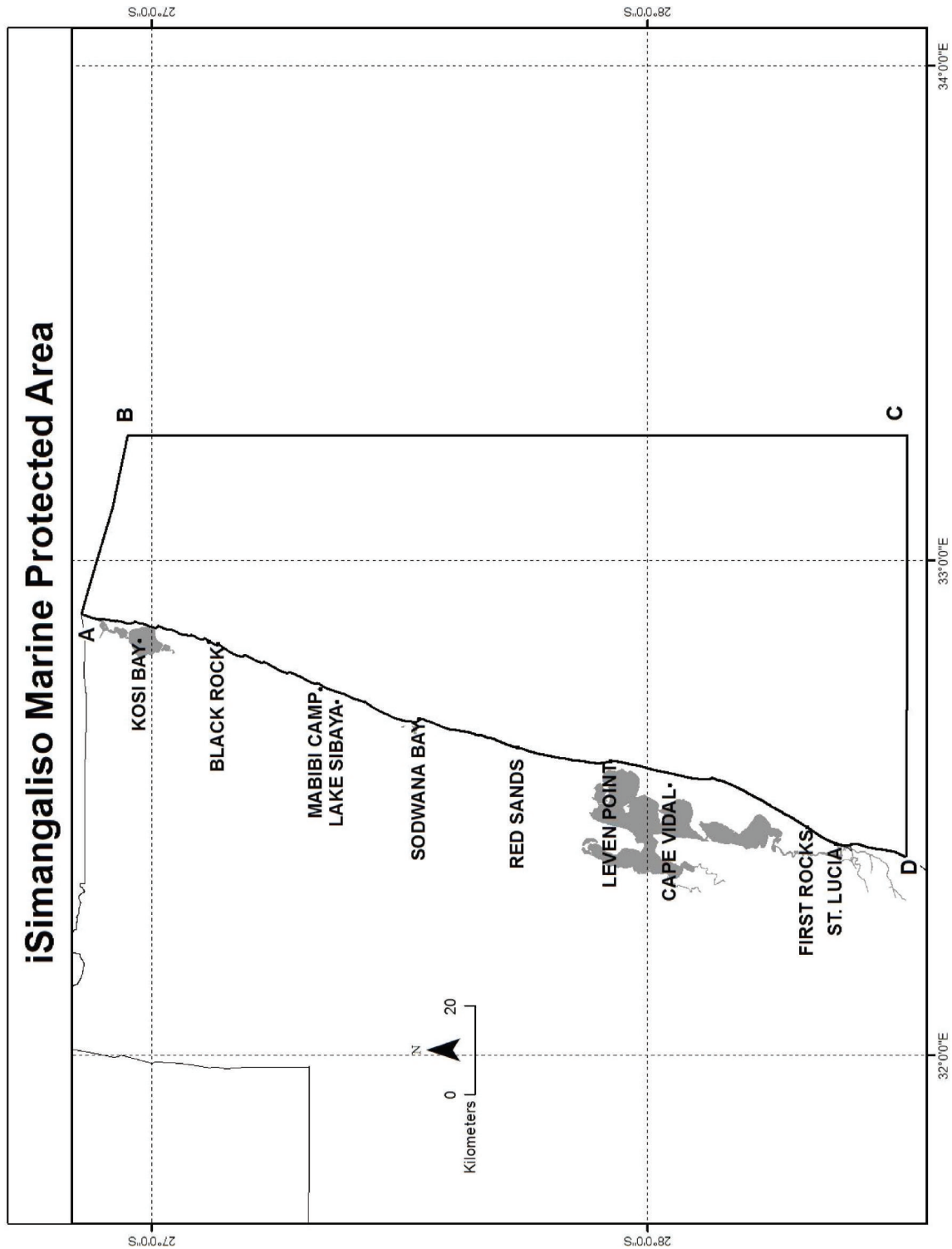


Figure1. The boundaries for the iSimangaliso Marine Protected Area

Table1. The exact geographic coordinates (WGS 84) of points in Fig 1.

	Point Label	X	Y
iSimangaliso MPA	A	32.891339	-26.857862
iSimangaliso MPA	B	33.2523	-26.950877
iSimangaliso MPA	C	33.2523	-28.522365
iSimangaliso MPA	D	32.4008	-28.522365