

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. 775

23 MAY 2019

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****NOTICE DECLARING THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN SEAMOUNT 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 Southwest Indian Seamount 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 Southwest Indian Seamount Marine Protected Area is an offshore Marine Protected Area in the 160 meter to 5300 meter depth range lying approximately 100 nautical miles offshore of Cape Point. The Southwest Indian Seamount Marine Protected Area is comprised of two separate areas, indicated as the North Zone and the Natal Seamount Zone in the Annexure as follows:

- a) North Zone is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following coordinates: A, B, C and D; and
- b) Natal Seamount Zone is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following coordinates: E, F, G and G to H along the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of South Africa.

The areas include 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 conserving and protecting benthic and pelagic habitats of the outer shelf, shelf edge, slope and abyss including the Natal seamount and the associated deep water coral habitats in different depth ranges;
- (b) to conserve and protect the ecologically sensitive biodiversity and the ecological processes associated with these ecosystems thereby facilitating seabed management and supporting eco-certification;
- (c) to conserve and protect an area of importance for migratory species including seabirds, turtles, sharks and other fish; and
- (d) to protect and provide an appropriate environment for research and monitoring particularly research on habitat description, habitat and climate resilience, mapping and monitoring and also to promote and contribute to environmental education.

Commencement

This notice takes effect on 1 August 2019.

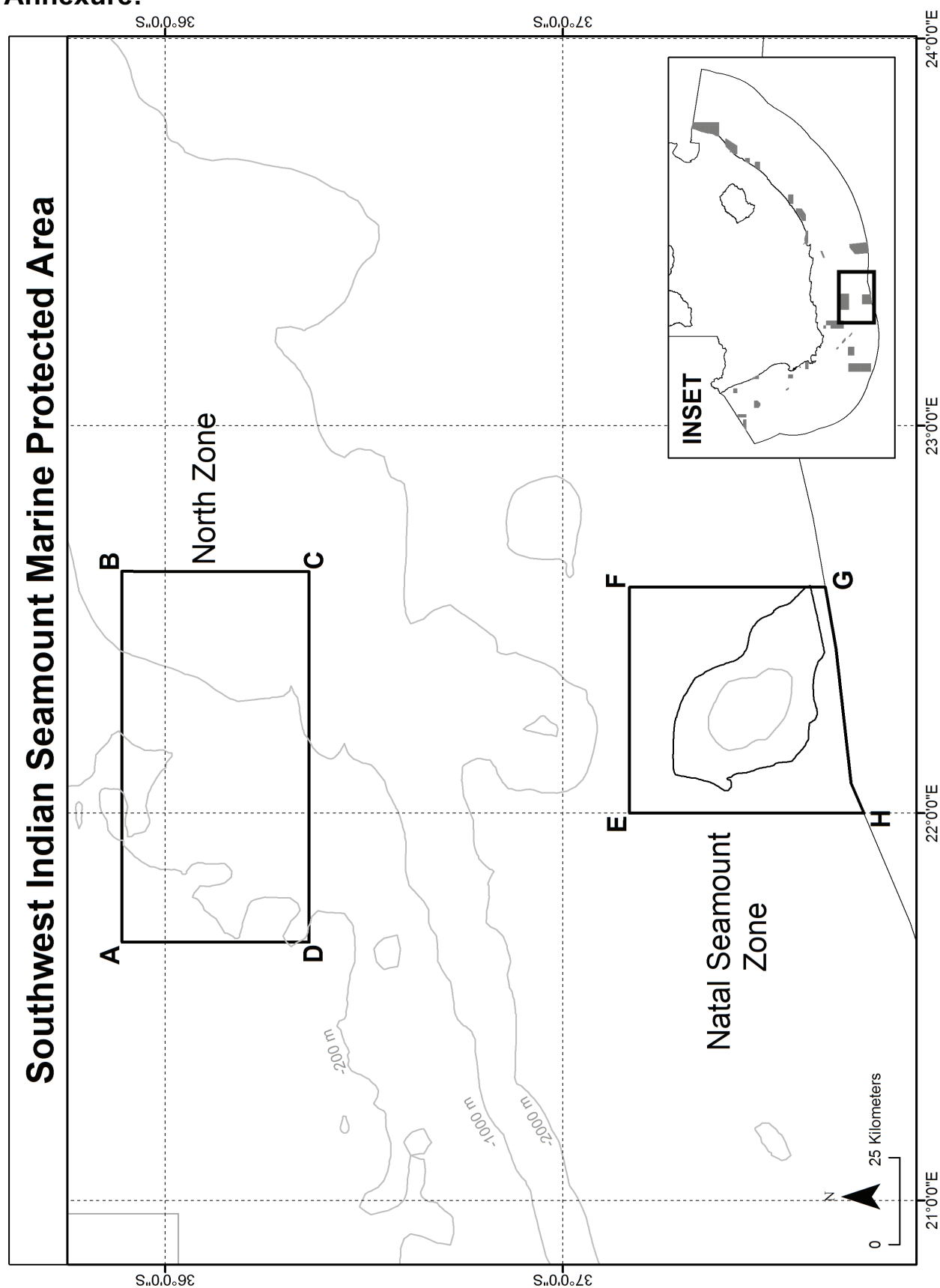
Annexure:

Fig. 1. The boundaries for the Southwest Indian Seamount Marine Protected Area

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

	POINT	X	Y
Southwest Indian Seamount North	A	21.667058	-35.891718
Southwest Indian Seamount North	B	22.624	-35.891
Southwest Indian Seamount North	C	22.623859	-36.362
Southwest Indian Seamount North	D	21.666667	-36.361938
Southwest Indian Seamount South	E	22.000122	-37.166687
Southwest Indian Seamount South	F	22.583313	-37.166687
Southwest Indian Seamount South	G	22.583329	-37.658854
Southwest Indian Seamount South	H	22.000055	-37.756076