



WWF®

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The WWF Honda Marine Park Programme

Powering the dream  
of a living ocean

## Why are marine parks important?

The oceans cover more than 70% of the earth's surface and play a critical role in regulating our climate and providing food, resources and other services to society. Yet less than 0.1% of our oceans are formally protected in Marine Parks, compared to some 10% of our land. Whilst this low level of formal protection was acceptable in the past, advancing technology and progressive over-exploitation of marine resources has led to rapid expansion of the human footprint on our oceans. Today, some 75% of the world's commercial fish stocks are either fully exploited or overexploited.

Many marine industries are also hugely wasteful and have widespread ecosystem impacts, beyond their impact on their target resource. It is estimated that some 30% of the world's fish catches are wasted and discarded back into the sea.

Marine Parks have been widely advocated as an effective management tool for securing and restoring the health of our oceans. Marine Parks serve as reservoirs of diverse marine life, replenishment zones for commercial fish stocks, scientific reference points for climate change and human impacts, and reduce conflict between marine users.

In South Africa, Marine Parks have been a cornerstone of our marine conservation efforts. South Africa has currently committed some 18% of its coastline to Marine Parks and Tsitsikamma Marine Park, established in 1964, is Africa's oldest Marine Park. For many of our over-exploited inshore marine resources, these Marine Parks are the last refugia of viable breeding populations.

Despite being a global leader in Marine Park development and management, South Africa still faces significant challenges in ensuring that its Marine Park estate is effectively managed.



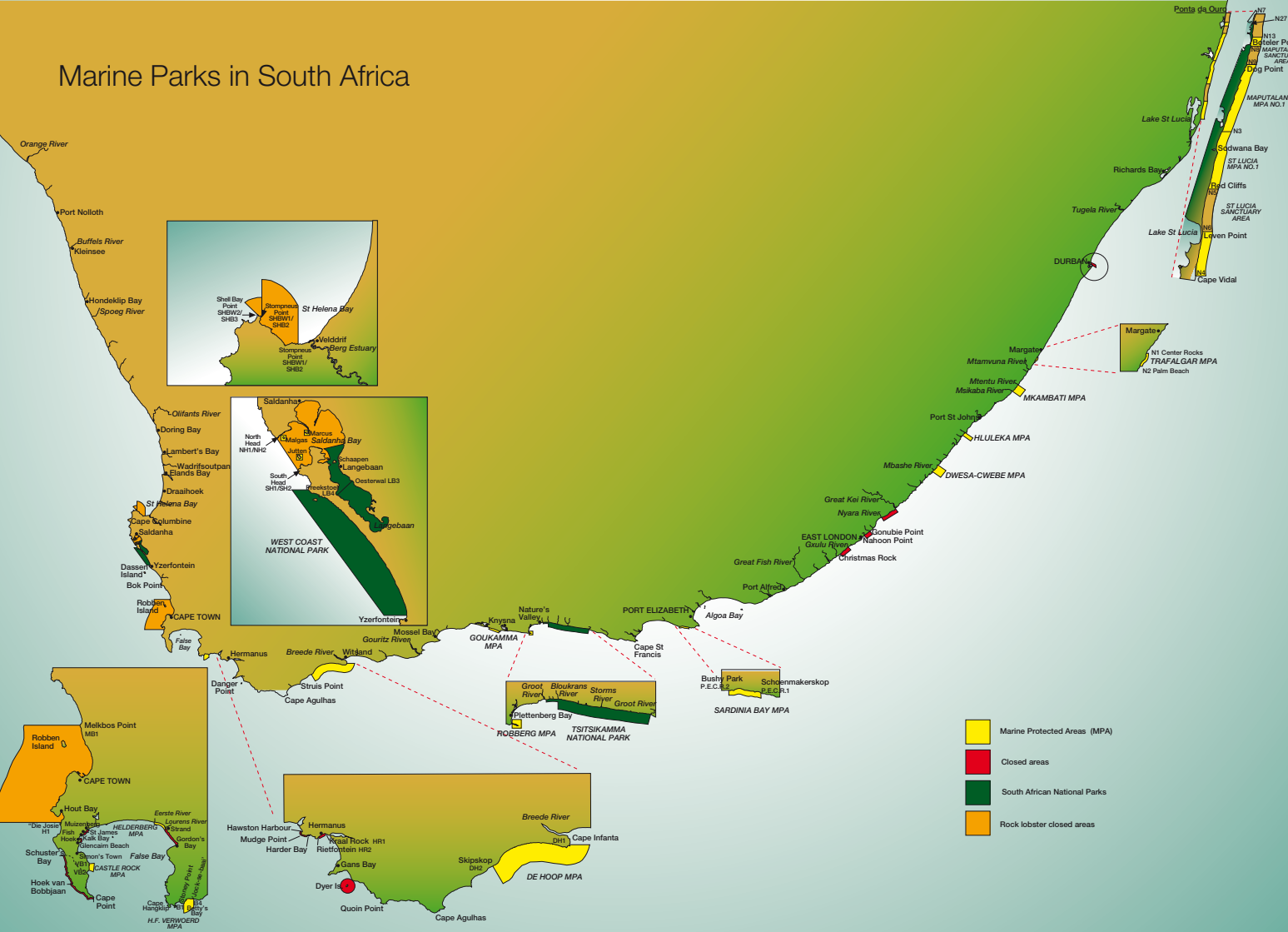


## The challenge for marine park management in South Africa

In 2004, WWF commissioned an assessment of the State of Marine Park Management in South Africa. This report revealed the following key challenges:

- Insufficient skills and capacity in Marine Park management teams
- Lack of appropriate resources and hardware
- Lack of management plans
- Low public awareness and support for Marine Parks
- Our network of Marine Parks is not representative of our overall marine heritage. While certain habitats are very well protected others (such as the West Coast and offshore areas) are totally neglected.

# Marine Parks in South Africa



# The WWF Honda Marine Parks Programme

WWF and Honda have partnered to develop a cohesive Marine Park Programme that will support and improve Marine Park management in South Africa.

## Vision

South Africa is a world leader in marine park management and our system of marine parks effectively secure our unique and rich marine heritage.

## Goal

To develop a Marine Park Support Unit that brings together the strengths and competencies of national government, relevant conservation agencies, the private sector and civil society to deliver our vision.

## Objectives

The WWF Honda Marine Park Support Unit will play a pivotal support role in delivery against the following objectives:

- Equip Marine Park staff with the necessary hardware to perform their duties effectively
- Develop skills and capacity of Marine Park management teams
- Develop management plans, inclusive of compliance, monitoring and business plans
- Build a high level of public awareness support for the role of Marine Parks
- Facilitate and promote the expansion of our national system of Marine Parks so that it effectively protects the diverse marine biodiversity of South Africa



## How to become a supporter

### Contact us

If you feel passionately about conserving our oceans and want to support this programme contact us on 021 888 2800, or visit [www.wwf.org.za](http://www.wwf.org.za) to find out more about the WWF Honda Marine Parks Programme.

### Buy sustainable seafood

Sustainably caught seafood can have a dramatic affect on the conservation of our oceans, so support WWF's Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) and look out for eco-labels such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

Visit [www.wwf.org.za/sassi](http://www.wwf.org.za/sassi) for more information.

### Fish smarter

Whether you are a commercial or recreational fisher your methods can affect our oceans. By supporting the WWF Responsible Fisheries Programme you can learn to fish smarter and more efficiently, thus helping to conserve our precious oceans.

Visit [www.wwf.org.za/responsiblefisheries](http://www.wwf.org.za/responsiblefisheries)



## Contact details

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The Power of Dreams

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