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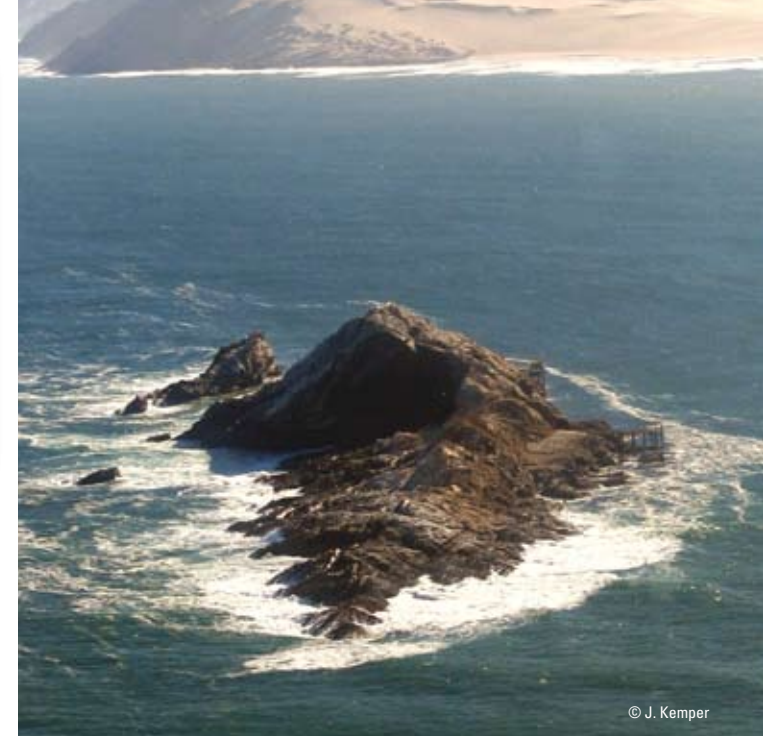
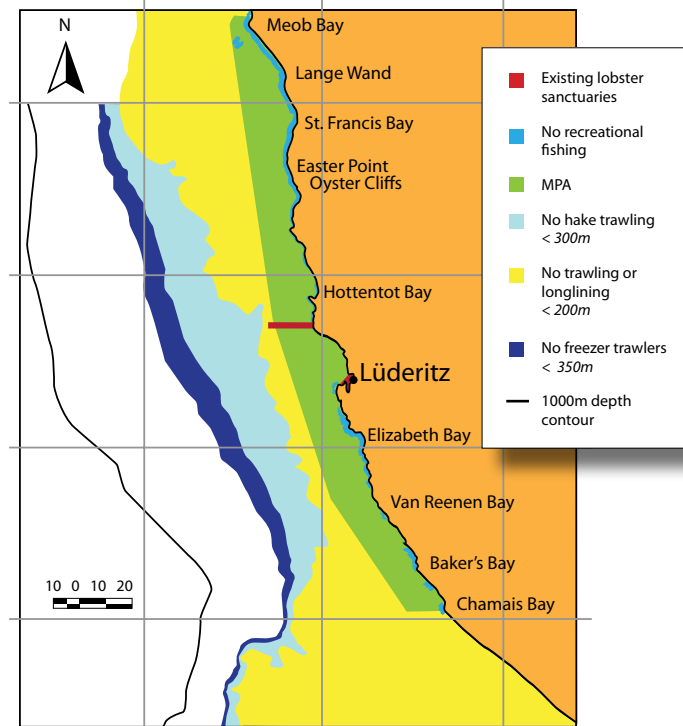
# NAMIBIAN ISLANDS'

## ⇒ Marine Protected Area

### Benefits of the Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area:

- Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems
- Maintenance of genetic diversity
- Protection of rare or threatened species and habitats
- Contributions to scientific knowledge
- Conservation of scientific reference sites
- Conservation of cultural heritage
- Educational opportunities
- Environmental monitoring

The sea is a valuable national resource and community asset. The Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area will help to ensure that our marine resources are conserved, protected and used wisely for the benefit of all Namibians and future generations.



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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

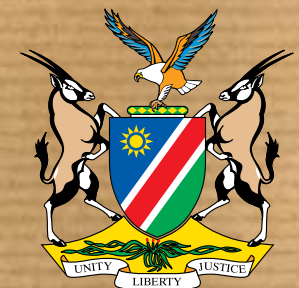
Contact Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Lüderitz Marine Research  
Tel: 063-202-415 <http://www.mfmr.gov.na>

Or visit the Namibian Coast Conservation and Management (NACOMA) project's website: <http://www.nacoma.org.na>

The MPA project was supported by:



NEARLY A  
MILLION  
HECTARES  
OF MARINE  
AND SEA  
AREA  
PROTECTED



Ministry of Fisheries  
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## Namibia's commitment to the health of our planet and our future



From parks to people, a strong conservation ethic runs deep in Namibia. Now, with the proclamation of the Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area (MPA), it also runs deep into the Atlantic Ocean.

Spanning 400km in length from Meob Bay in the north to Chamais Bay in the south and 30km from the coastline into the sea, the Namibian Islands' MPA has been established to help maintain essential ecological and life support systems; to ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems; and to preserve biotic diversity.

But there is more. Marine ecosystems and resources are fundamental to the sustainable development of coastal countries such as Namibia, providing food, minerals, pharmaceuticals, and a vast range of other products. They support tourism and recreation industries and play a vital role in transport and in the culture and lifestyle of coastal people.

Given Namibia's holistic approach to conservation, the Namibian Islands' MPA is also part of our country's commitment to the protection and regeneration of marine resources that contribute to the socio-economic welfare of our country now and for future generations.

Namibia's first Marine Protected Area covers almost one million hectares of marine and sea area where 10 small islands and 8 more islets or rocks, so small they sometimes appear to disappear under high tides, provide sanctuary to an astonishing variety of life.

The wind-driven Benguela Current upwelling system on Namibia's coast supports one of the most productive marine ecosystems in the world. These nutrient-rich waters nourish fish and provide important retention areas and nursery grounds for juvenile and larval stages of pelagic fish, which are important to Namibia's fishing industry. The rocky areas around the islands provide rich inter-tidal zones and crucial substrate for kelp beds which west-coast rock lobster use for shelter.

Sharing the waters in the Namibian Islands' MPA, the southern right whale and Heaviside's dolphin breed, the humpback whale migrates, while the dusky dolphin, the minke whale, the southern



on these islands and inshore Buffer zones, sub-divided into four degrees of protection, encompass the Namibian Islands' MPA, providing high protection status for specific islands, rock lobster and line fishing sanctuaries and limiting certain harmful affects caused by marine mining activities.

Worldwide, Marine Protected Areas have become popular tools for ecosystem conservation and adaptive fisheries management. Given their recognized legal status, MPAs can facilitate fisheries management by protecting the habitat of depleted, threatened or endangered species (including commercially important fish stocks) in an effort to restore and enhance their populations.

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The marine environment is critical to the natural and cultural heritage of the world. Not only do many marine areas support a great diversity of plants, animals, and natural habitats, but the oceans play an essential role in climatic cycles and other global processes. Protecting our marine areas is essential to the world's environmental health.



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right whale dolphin and the killer whale or orca are regularly seen.

True to Namibia's geological strength, these islands are considered desert islands, supporting life against extreme environmental odds. Seabirds and seals dominate the islands' land fauna. Of the 14 seabird species breeding in Namibia, 11 species breed





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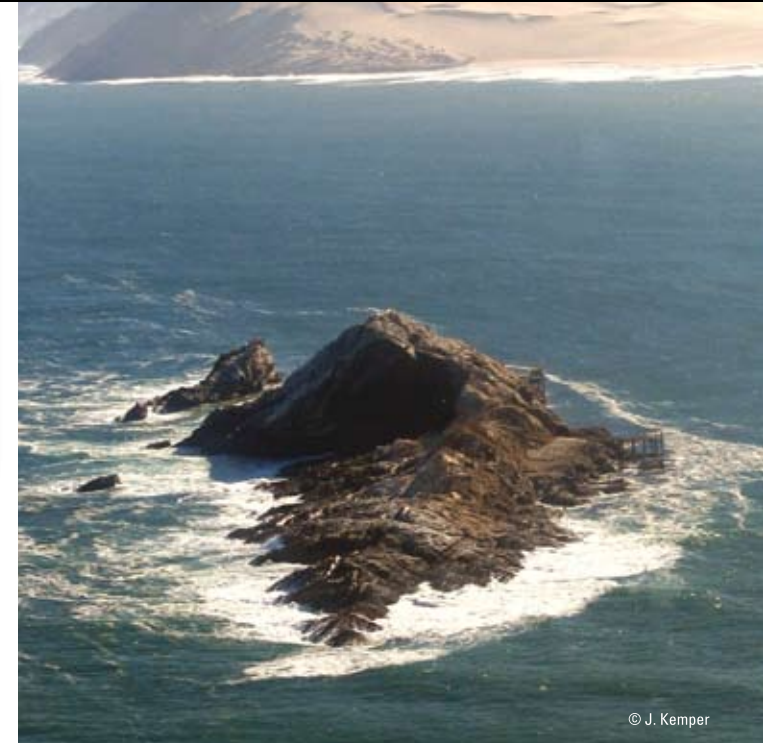
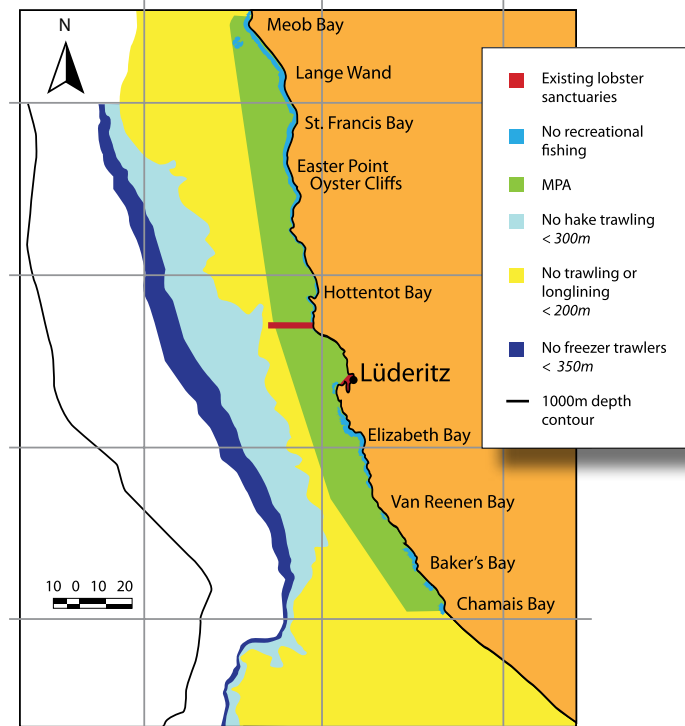
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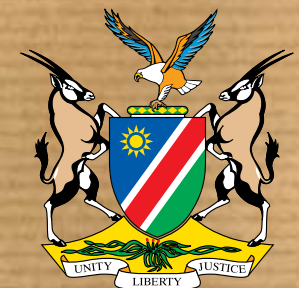
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