

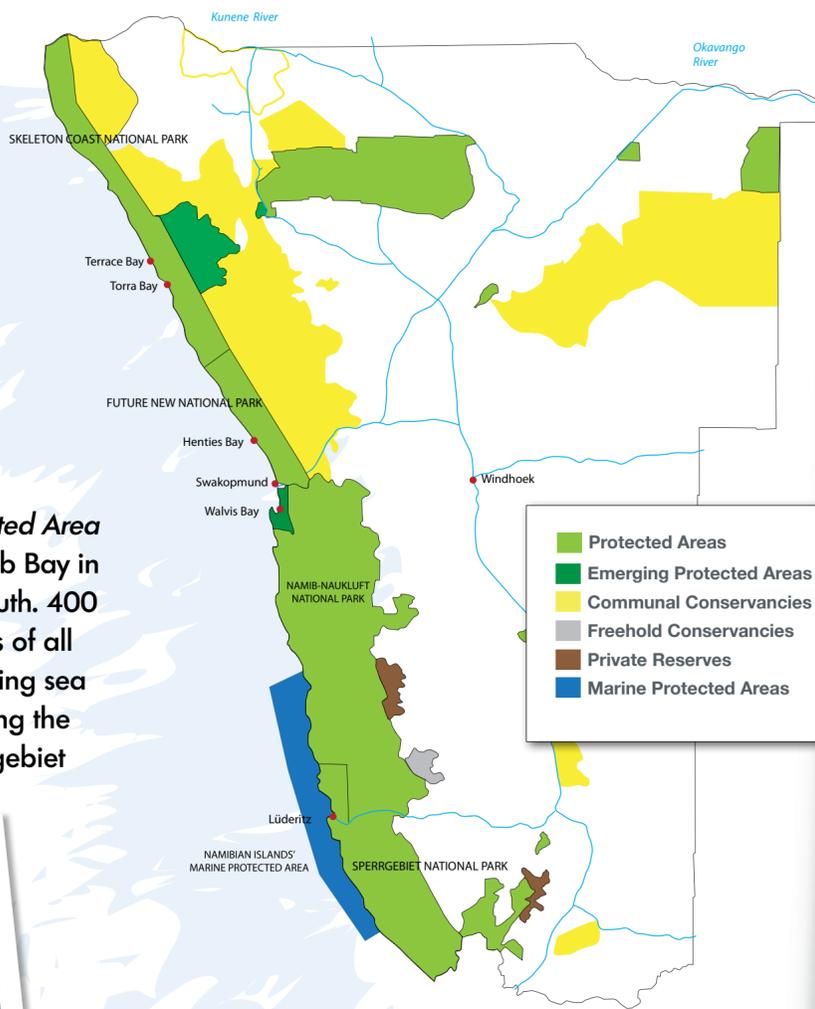
NAMIBIAN ISLANDS' Marine Protected Area

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources



NEARLY A MILLION HECTARES OF MARINE AND SEA AREA PROTECTED

The Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area (MPA) lies off the coast between Meob Bay in the north and Chamais Bay in the South. 400 kms long and 30 kms wide, it consists of all of the country's islands, and surrounding sea areas, up to the high water mark along the country's coast, adjacent to the Sperrgebiet and Namib Naukluft National Parks.



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

ZONES

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.

Namibian Islands' MPA consists of an all-encompassing 'buffer zone', sub-divided into four degrees of increasing protection:

Zone 1: includes the entire Islands' MPA in a blanket of environmental protection.

Zone 2: stricter conservation conditions applied to near- and on-shore mining areas, up to a depth of 30 m.

Zone 3: protects a perimeter of 120 m (or less in specific cases) around each island, islet or rock.

Zone 4: Represents the highest protection status with specific conditions assigned individually to each island, islet or rock, as well as to Rock lobster sanctuaries and a line fish sanctuary north of the MPA.

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.



The MPA provides breeding and foraging areas, shelter, as well as safe migratory routes for a number of fish species, rock lobster, dolphins, whales and seabirds, some of which are endangered.



The MPA project is supported by:



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>

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