

**OPERATION PHAKISA
UNLOCKING THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF SOUTH AFRICA'S OCEANS**

**OCEANS ECONOMY REVIEW WORKSHOP
SUMMARY**

Marine Protection Services and Ocean Governance

15 OCTOBER 2015

Recommendations from session: Communications and synergies

- **Improve communication to those expected to assist with implementation.** Some stakeholders felt strongly about the fact that since Phakisa was launched last year they have not been regularly updated on progress in all MPG initiatives. There was a feeling that they should constantly be kept informed of progress as they were also part of the Ocean Economy LAB.
- **Improve communication inter and intra labs and external stakeholders.** There is a need for cross syndication between LABS to discuss progress. This will further unlock the blockages which might be common between LABS and initiatives. Examples provided included MPAs, EBSAs and Oil and Gas.
- **Include private sector and civil society stakeholders into work streams at early stages** e.g. Oil and Gas industry, MPA and MSP processes – if possible communication should occur prior to Gazetting. The 21 network of MPAs and the MSP process are the most important initiatives in this LAB. Stakeholder Consultation in MPAs was raised as a concern, with confusion over declaring of new MPAs and opening of existing ones like DWESA CWEBWE and TSITSIKAMA MPAs.
- **All Phakisa initiatives need to be subjected to the same testing process** – be careful of something being slipped into Phakisa processes but not being properly tested.

MPA = Marine Protected Area; EBSA = Ecological and Biological Sensitive Area; MSP = Marine Spatial Plan

Recommendations from session: Communications and synergies

- Participate in cooperative fora – e.g. SAMREF to seek synergy.
- MPA implementation must be linked to Provincial inputs re proclamation and subsequent enforcement.
- Provide regular feedback to all around the details of progress on each specific initiative.
- Enable coordinated research efforts top down i.e. do we know what research (research topics) are needed and how we can best coordinate research data sharing between state, universities, CBOs and private sector.
- The Ocean economy is a 10-15 year (and ongoing) project – must be realistic in expectations and maintain perspectives.
- Consider the introduction of an e-mail newsletter (quarterly) to communicate progress to all Phakisa stakeholders – In this regard participants requested copies of Delivery Unit Presentations.

Recommendations from session: Research, budget, flexibility and assessment

Budget

- National organ of state activities without secured budget must be removed or reviewed.
- Consideration should be given to funding support to municipalities / provinces to underpin implementation of various initiatives where appropriate – be careful of unfunded mandates.

Flexibility of planning

- Provide for flexibility in relation to 3 foot plan activities and timelines adaptations – not all plans were done at the same detail / level.

Assessment

- Interaction between labs and initiatives should be encouraged and scored positively.
- Need to introduce a qualitative aspect to assessment.