

ToRs towards Development of a Marine Research Plan



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**Marine Research Plan
First Briefing Workshop
26 September 2013**

The Goal of the MRP



To strengthen scientific understanding of the dynamics on the marine and coastal environment in order to promote and sustain:

- Human and ecosystem well-being,
- Development of communities
- Protection and preservation of biodiversity
- Proper management of development in coastal zones

Objectives of the MRP



- To develop a single comprehensive national marine and coastal research agenda as part of the overarching Antarctic, Southern Oceans and Marine & Coastal Research Strategy
- To identify and prioritise mechanisms for optimising marine and coastal research funding using existing instruments
- Identify areas of marine and coastal research that require new instruments

Desired Outcome of MRP



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- A platform to increase knowledge capital
- Linkages between basic and applied research
- Growth in critical mass of marine researchers (HCD) with a focus towards improving demographic balance
- Increased capacity in, and participation of previously less active institutions
- Increased public awareness & participation
- Proper policy frameworks to support marine research
- Profile SA marine research at an internationally competitive level

Developing the MRP



- Assessment of the Marine Research landscape
 - Strengths/weaknesses/opportunities in terms of:
 - Quantity, breadth & depth of available research skills
 - Availability & adequacy of research infrastructure
 - Geographic location
 - Inventory of current/recent research focus compared to the National R&D strategy and the 10 Year Innovation plan – Research gaps/needs
- Identify cutting-edge strategic research interests – **specific/generic research questions**

Developing the MRP



- Relevant policy options (both existing and required) to support the research plan
- Develop an implementation framework with specific goals for the:
 - **Short-term – Two years**
 - **Medium-term – Five Years**
 - **Long-term – Ten Years**

Thematic Priorities for the MRP



- **Marine Science and Biodiversity**
 - Understanding and predicting the impacts of human activity on biodiversity
 - The value of biodiversity to human well-being
- **Marine Science, Society, and Development**
 - Sustainable development for poor communities
- **Marine Science & Ecosystems**
 - Scientific analysis of the impacts of ecosystem degradation phenomena – pollution, erosion, etc.
 - Sustainable management & use of resources
 - Management of ecosystems & habitats



Thank you