Appendix

Template for Submission of Scientific Information

to Describe Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas

*Note: Please **DO NOT** embed tables, graphs, figures, photos, or other artwork within the text manuscript, but please send these as separate files. Captions for figures should be included at the end of the text file, however.*

Title/Name of the area: Protea Banks, Shelf edge and slope

Presented by (*names, affiliations, title, contact details)*

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Abstract (*in less than 150 words)*

Introduction

This area includes the shelf, deep reefs with species known only from this location, 4 submarine canyons and a steep shelf edge and slope. Depth ranges from the 30m bathymetric contour to approximately 2000m.

Location: : latitudes of approximately 30°S to 32°S of the equator, and longitudes of approximately 30°E and 31°E. (co-ordinates to be refined with input from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Harris et al. 2011 – should extend out 110nautical miles from the coast). The area is entirely within the national jurisdication of South Africa.

Feature description of the proposed area

The area includes benthic and pelagic features with details on habitats, processes and species detailed in Sink et al. 2011, Harris et al. 2011 and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife 2012 (referred to as area 20 in this report).

Feature condition and future outlook of the proposed area

The National Biodiversity Assessment 2011 (Sink et al. 2012) indicated declining condition overall in this area (based on pressure data and an ecosystem-pressure matrix) with condition ranging from fair to poor across this broad area. There is planned research in the area through

the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Program Phase III. This will be led by Dr Jean Harris (one of the presenters of this candidate EBSA).

Assessment of the area against CBD EBSA Criteria

(Discuss the area in relation to each of the CBD criteria and relate the best available science. Note that a candidate EBSA may qualify on the basis of one or more of the criteria, and that the boundaries of the EBSA need not be defined with exact precision. And modeling may be used to estimate the presence of EBSA attributes. Please note where there are significant information gaps)

CBD EBSA Criteria (Annex I to decision IX/20)	**Description** (Annex I to decision IX/20)	**Ranking of criterion relevance** (please mark one column with an X)			
		Don't Know	**Low**	**Some**	**High**
Uniqueness or rarity	Area contains either (i) unique ("the only one of its kind"), rare (occurs only in few locations) or endemic species, populations or communities, and/or (ii) unique, rare or distinct, habitats or ecosystems; and/or (iii) unique or unusual geomorphological or oceanographic features.			**x**	
Algae on deep reefs known only from this location (this could be perceived uniqueness as deep reefs are poorly studied in this region). [Check KZN work e.g. Natal wrasse.]					
Special importance for life-history stages of species	Areas that are required for a population to survive and thrive.				**x**
This area includes an important migration path for several species and most notable the "Natal sardine run". Sardine- *Sardinops sagax* Migration: Geelbek - *Atractoscion aequidens*, Garrick - *Lichia amia*, Seventy-four - *Polystegamus undulosus* Nursery area: Slinger - *Chrysoblephus puniceus*,					
Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats	Area containing habitat for the survival and recovery of endangered, threatened, declining species or area with significant assemblages of such species.			**x**	
Overexploited linefish and Sharks **NBA listed habitat types:** **EN**: Natal inshore reef. **VU**: Natal sandy shelf, Natal canyon, Natal shelf reef					
Vulnerability,	Areas that contain a relatively high				**x**

CBD EBSA Criteria (Annex I to decision IX/20)	**Description** (Annex I to decision IX/20)	**Ranking of criterion relevance** (please mark one column with an X)			
		Don't Know	**Low**	**Some**	**High**
fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery	proportion of sensitive habitats, biotopes or species that are functionally fragile (highly susceptible to degradation or depletion by human activity or by natural events) or with slow recovery.				
Four submarine canyons, 7 cold water coral records, deep reefs. Shelf edge habitats					
Biological productivity	Area containing species, populations or communities with comparatively higher natural biological productivity.				**x**
Very steep area with high frequency of fronts. Chlorophyll a and SST fronts.					
Biological diversity	Area contains comparatively higher diversity of ecosystems, habitats, communities, or species, or has higher genetic diversity.			**x**	
Several ecozones along the slope					
Naturalness	Area with a comparatively higher degree of naturalness as a result of the lack of or low level of human-induced disturbance or degradation.				*x*
Good pelagic condition, good and fair for benthic habitats. No pelagic long-lining inshore of 20 nm.					

Sharing experiences and information applying other criteria (Optional)

Other Criteria	**Description**	**Ranking of criterion relevance** (please mark one column with an X)			
		Don't Know	**Low**	**Some**	**High**
Add relevant criteria					
Conflict between fishers and baited shark dive operators (offshore)					

References

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. 2012. Focus areas for additional marine biodiversity protection in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Unpublished Report - Jan 2012. Scientific Services, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife: Durban. Pp 62.

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Maps and Figures

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