Appendix

Template for Submission of Scientific Information to Describe Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas

Title/Name of the area: Delagoa shelf edge, canyons and slope

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

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Abstract (*in less than 150 words)*

This proposed area extends south, north and offshore of the existing Maputaland and St Lucia Marine Protected Area and iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a world Heritage site to capture the full extent of offshore benthic and pelagic habitat types, provide for coastal and offshore connectivity and cover the important offshore habitats of endangered leatherback turtles. The area includes a key migratory route for humpback whales, a nursery area for bull sharks, spawning areas for fish (endemic sparids) and sharks and includes habitat of other threatened species including coelacanths, marine mammals and sharks. Potential vulnerable marine ecosystems include numerous submarine canyons, paleo shorelines and deep reefs and hard shelf edge with reef building cold water corals also recovered in depths of more than 900 m. Whale sharks feed in this area in summer.

Introduction

This proposed area extends south, north and offshore of the existing Maputaland and St Lucia Marine Protected Area and iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a world Heritage site to capture the full extent of offshore benthic and pelagic habitat types, provide for coastal and offshore connectivity and cover the important offshore habitats of endangered leatherback turtles. The area includes a key migratory route for humpback whales, a nursery area for bull sharks, spawning areas for fish (especially endemic sparids) and sharks and includes habitat of other threatened species including coelacanths, marine mammals and sharks. Potential vulnerable marine ecosystems include numerous submarine canyons, paleo shorelines and deep reefs and hard shelf edge with reef building cold water corals also recovered in depths of more than 900 m. Whale sharks feed in this area in summer. This area has been identified as a priority area by two different systematic biodiversity plans, a national plan to identify focus areas for offshore protection (Sink et al. 2011) and a fine-scale provincial plan for the province of KwaZulu-Natal (Harris et al. 2011).

(To include: feature type(s) presented, geographic description, depth range, oceanography, general information data reported, availability of models)

Location: This area is bounded by the coastline and extends across the EEZs of both Mozambique and South Africa between approximately 26°S to 29°S and 32°E and 34°E. Transboundary work is needed to refine this location and develop this proposal more fully. It includes areas within the territorial seas and exclusive economic zones of both South Africa and Mozambique.

Feature description of the proposed area

See Sink et al. 2011 and Harris et al. 2011

Feature condition and future outlook of the proposed area

The National Biodiversity Assessment 2011 (Sink et al. 2012) indicated good condition across most of this area but these analyses were confined to South Africa. The area is relatively pristine but emerging pressures include new mining and petroleum applications and a port development in Mozambique.

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**	
The submarine canyons support a population of Coelacanths *Latimeria chalumnae*. The spotted legskate *Anacanthobatis marmoratus* is a rare species found in this area (Haupt 2010).					
Special importance for life-	Areas that are required for a population to survive and thrive.				**x**

history stages of species					
Breeding and feeding areas for leatherback turtles (particularly in the south) Migratory corridor for humpback whales. Nursery area for Bull shark -*Carcharhinus leucas*. Spawning area for Dusky shark - *Carcharhinus obscurus* and King mackerel - *Scomber japonicus*. Spawning and nursery area for Sand tiger shark - *Carcharias Taurus* (Sink et al. 2011, Vogt 2011, Ezemvelo KZNW Wildlife 2012)					
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**	
IUCN listed species: **CR**: Ceolacant - *Latimeria chalumnae* **EN**: Scalloped hammerhead - *Sphyrna lewini* (EN), Great Hammerhead - *S. mokarran* **VU**: Sperm whales - *Physeter macrocephalus* , Smooth hammerhead - *Sphyrna zygaena* Overexploited linefish species (sarids, sciaenids)					
Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery	Areas that contain a relatively high 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.				**x**
Two species of reef-forming cold water corals. Numerous submarine canyons. Important for vulnerable shark species with low fecundity.					
Biological productivity	Area containing species, populations or communities with comparatively higher natural biological productivity.			**x**	
Chlorophyll a and sea temperature fronts contribute to variable and elevated productivity in this area (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife 2012)					
Biological diversity	Area contains comparatively higher diversity of ecosystems, habitats, communities, or species, or has higher genetic diversity.				**x**
This area includes the overlap between the Delagoa and Natal ecoregions and is considered an important transition zone (Sink et al. 2011, 2012, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife 2012. High habitat heterogeneity and high species diversity are reported.					
Naturalness	Area with a comparatively higher degree of naturalness as a result of the lack of or low level of human-induced disturbance or				*x*

	degradation.				
This area is relatively pristine with almost no industrial fishing (pelagic long lining not permitted within 20nm of the coast).					

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**
Fisheries concerns	In the south, an area of importance for bycatch management in the crustacean trawl fishery has been identified by systematic planning (Sink et al. 2012).				
Explanation for ranking					

References

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Maps and Figures

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