



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

What are MPAs?

Just like national parks on land, marine protected areas help safeguard areas of the ocean and marine animals.

42
MPAs

are found in the ocean around the South African mainland and islands.

87%

of marine ecosystem types are represented in our MPA network

5% of the ocean around South Africa is protected

57 736 km²

of the ocean around South Africa is protected

MPAs are an insurance policy for healthy oceans and ocean economies. They are an investment in our future well-being.



Photo: Jean Tresfon



Photo: Eve Marshall

MPAs protect marine ecosystems and marine biodiversity.

MPAs protect spawning and nursery areas for fish and undisturbed breeding grounds for other animals.



Photo: Steve Benjamin

No-take MPAs allow populations of fish and invertebrates to increase and restock adjacent fished areas.



Photo: Ryan Daly

<https://www.marineprotectedareas.org.za/iconic-species>



INCORPORATING



70 years of helping people to care for our ocean