

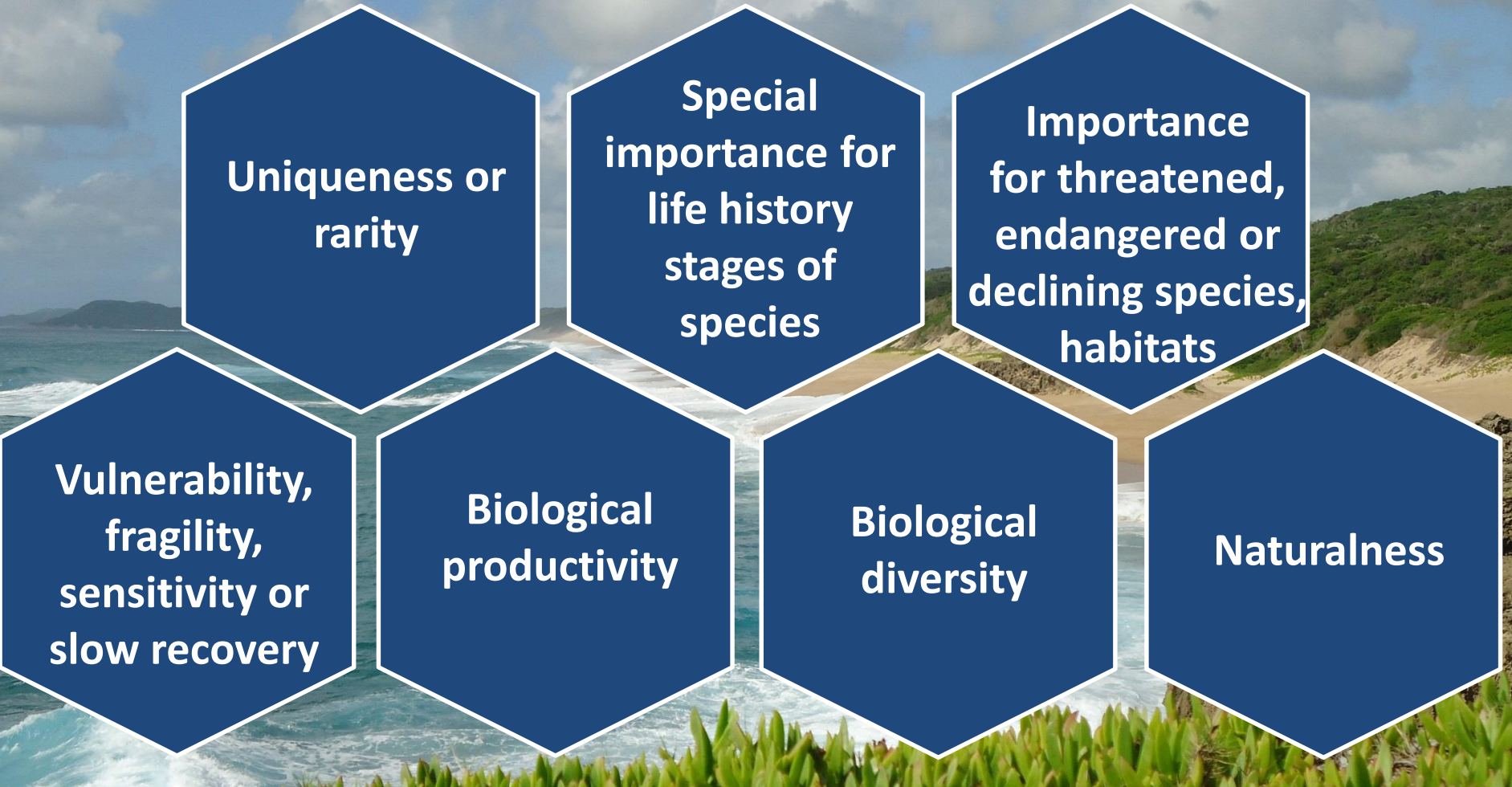
EBSAs in South Africa: Linking scientific information with marine planning and management

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A diagram consisting of six blue hexagons with white borders, arranged in two rows of three. Each hexagon contains a criterion for EBSAs. The background is a photograph of a coastal landscape with waves, a sandy beach, and green vegetation.

Uniqueness or
rarity

Special
importance for
life history
stages of
species

Importance
for threatened,
endangered or
declining species,
habitats

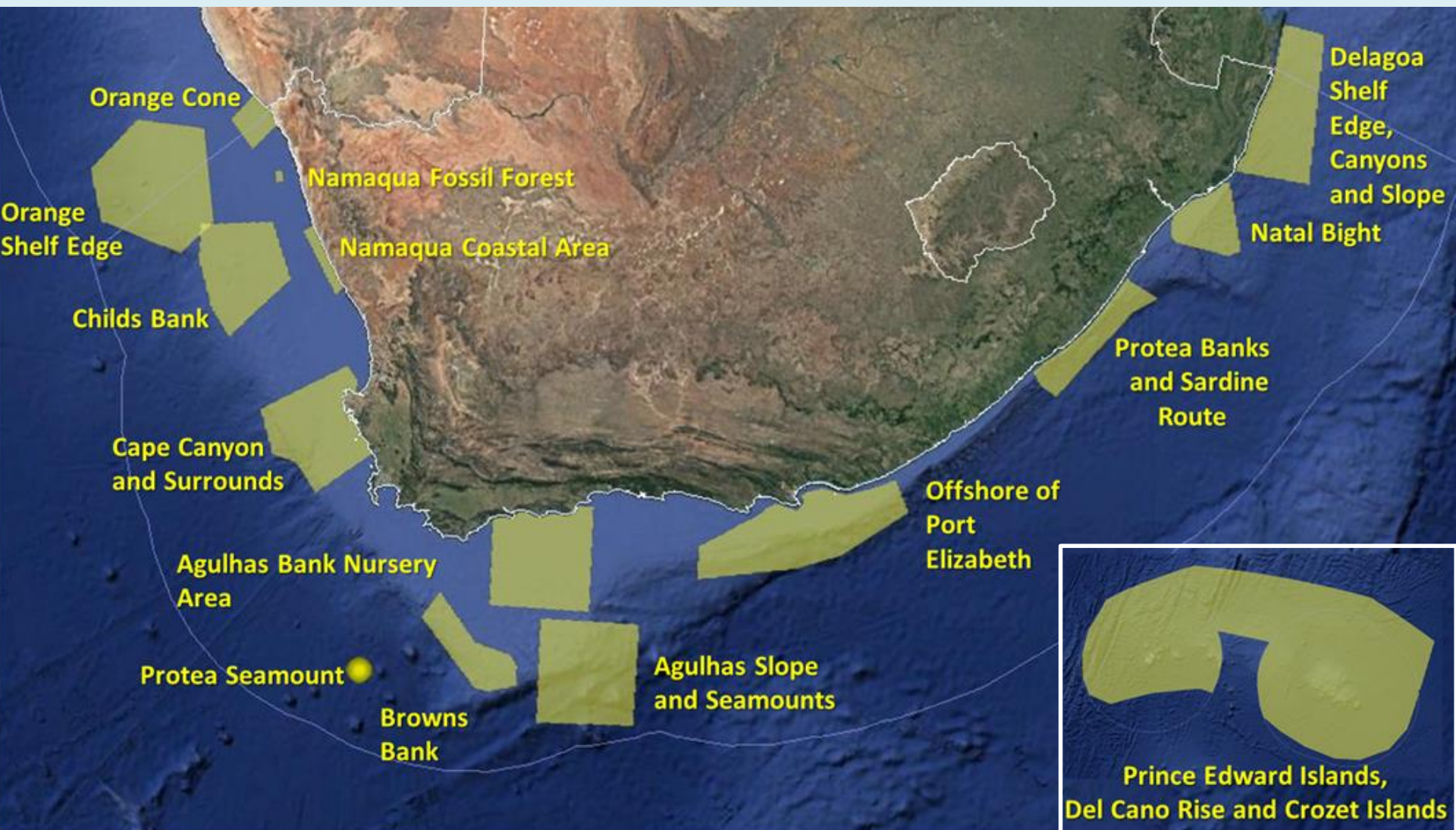
Vulnerability,
fragility,
sensitivity or
slow recovery

Biological
productivity

Biological
diversity

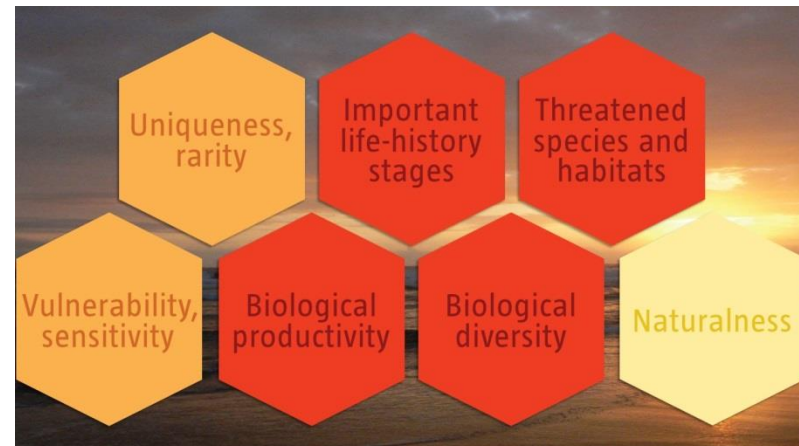
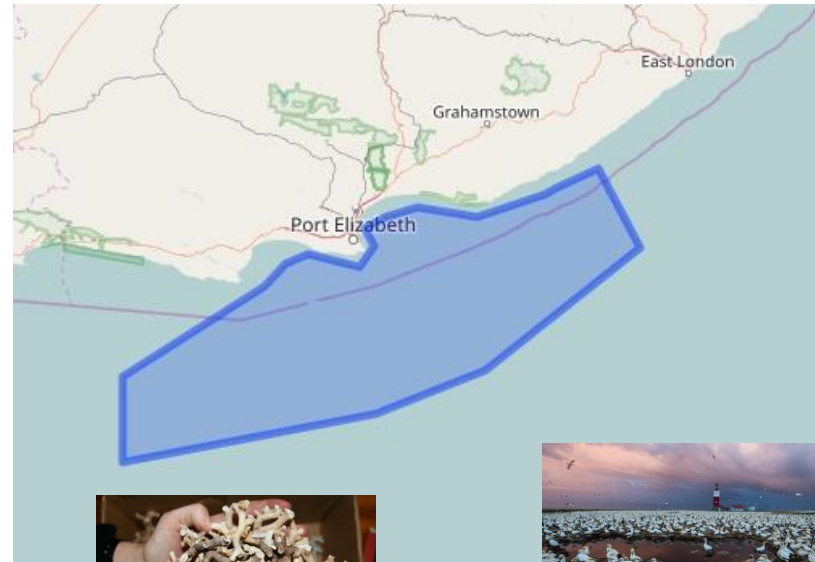
Naturalness

- **EBSAs: areas of the oceans that have special ecological or biological importance and /or provide important ecosystem services**
- **Need to be protected with conservation or other management measures to help stop rapid loss of biodiversity in the ocean**



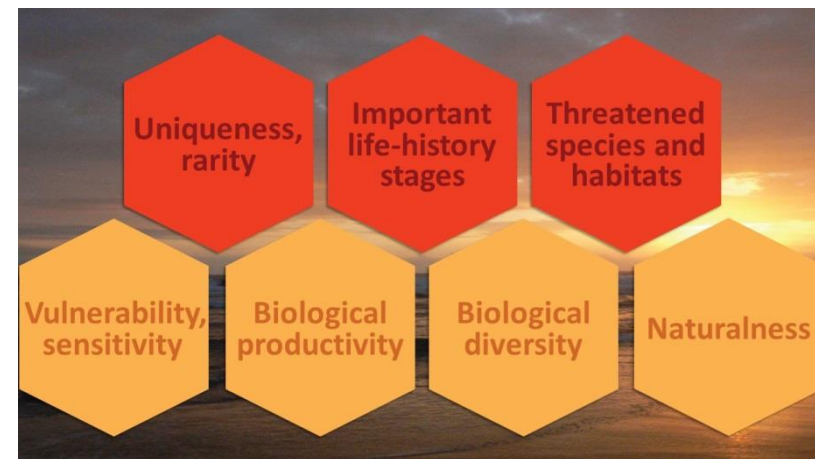
Offshore of Port Elizabeth

- Includes **several small islands that are breeding habitat for seabirds** (Endangered African penguin, Cape gannet), sites where coelocanths present
- Important **spawning areas, nursery areas, and key transport pathways** for demersal and pelagic fish, supporting **foraging areas for top predators**
- **Vulnerable habitats and species**, e.g. submarine canyons, steep shelf edge, deep reefs, outer shelf and shelf edge gravels, and reef-building cold-water corals
- Includes **unique rocky ridge** that supports corals, covered by dense clouds of plankton and hake
- Important area for **priority estuaries**, contains a **Critically Endangered localised endemic estuarine pipefish**
- Includes **several small coastal MPAs**

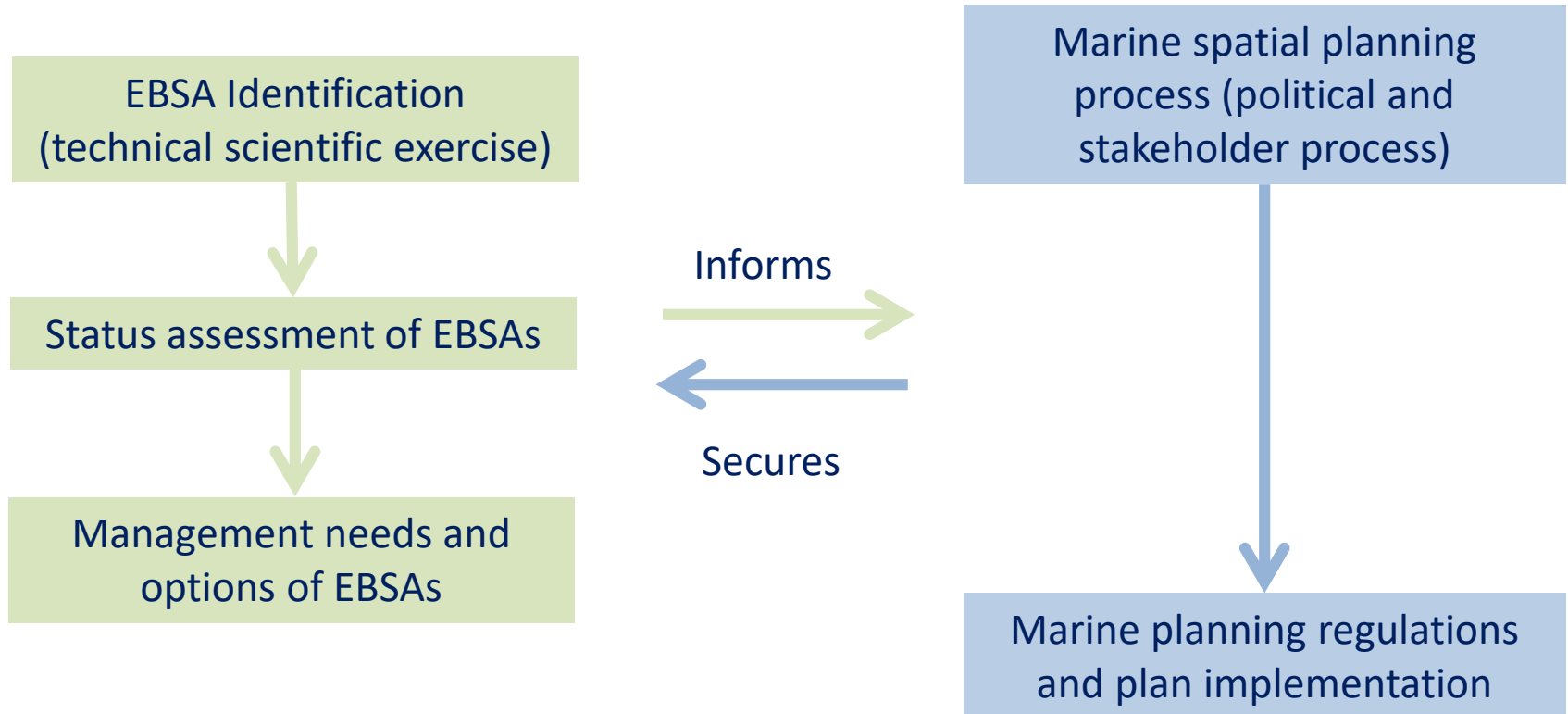


Agulhas Bank Nursery Area

- An area of **wider shelf** Includes **Critically Endangered mud** habitats and **unique high-profile volcanic offshore reefs (Alphard Banks)** that support **cold-water coral communities**
- Only **warm temperate nursery area** for species that spawn on the narrow shelf in the north (fish, some of which are **threatened endemics or overexploited linefish** species, and **squid**)
- Important for **retention and recruitment processes**, with dense benthic copepod communities **supporting food provisioning**
- The **centre of abundance** of numerous warm-temperate species, e.g., endemic sparids
- Frequented by **migrating loggerhead and Critically Endangered leatherback turtles**



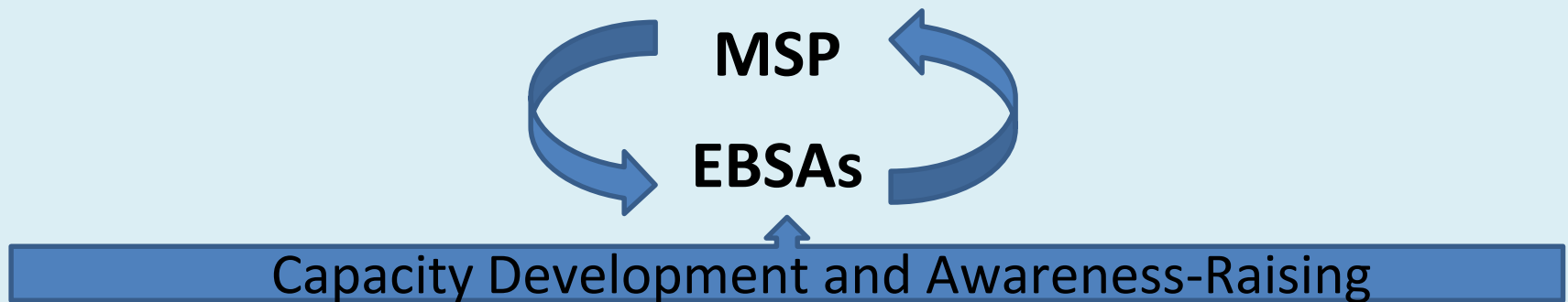
EBSAs and MSP (Maps to Action)



In terms of securing appropriate protection for EBSAs: **“It is the resolution, coherence and logic of the EBSA arguments that will win or lose their cause in the MSP discussions” (Naidoo)**

Benguela Current Marine Spatial Management and Governance Project (until April 2020) - MARISMA

MARISMA supports BCC and its member states in achieving socio-economic development through the balancing of sustainable use and protection of the marine environment.



EBSA aims:

- (1) Fully embed EBSAs as part of a robust, spatially explicit, MSP process in the region and member states;**
- (2) Strengthen the capacities of the BCC and member states in relation to EBSAs;**
- (3) Assist to secure tangible and improved management outputs for these key biodiversity assets.**

**(1) EBSA Identification
(technical scientific exercise)**

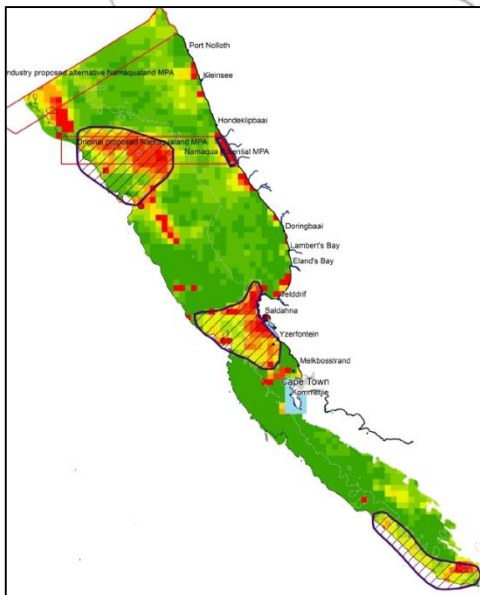
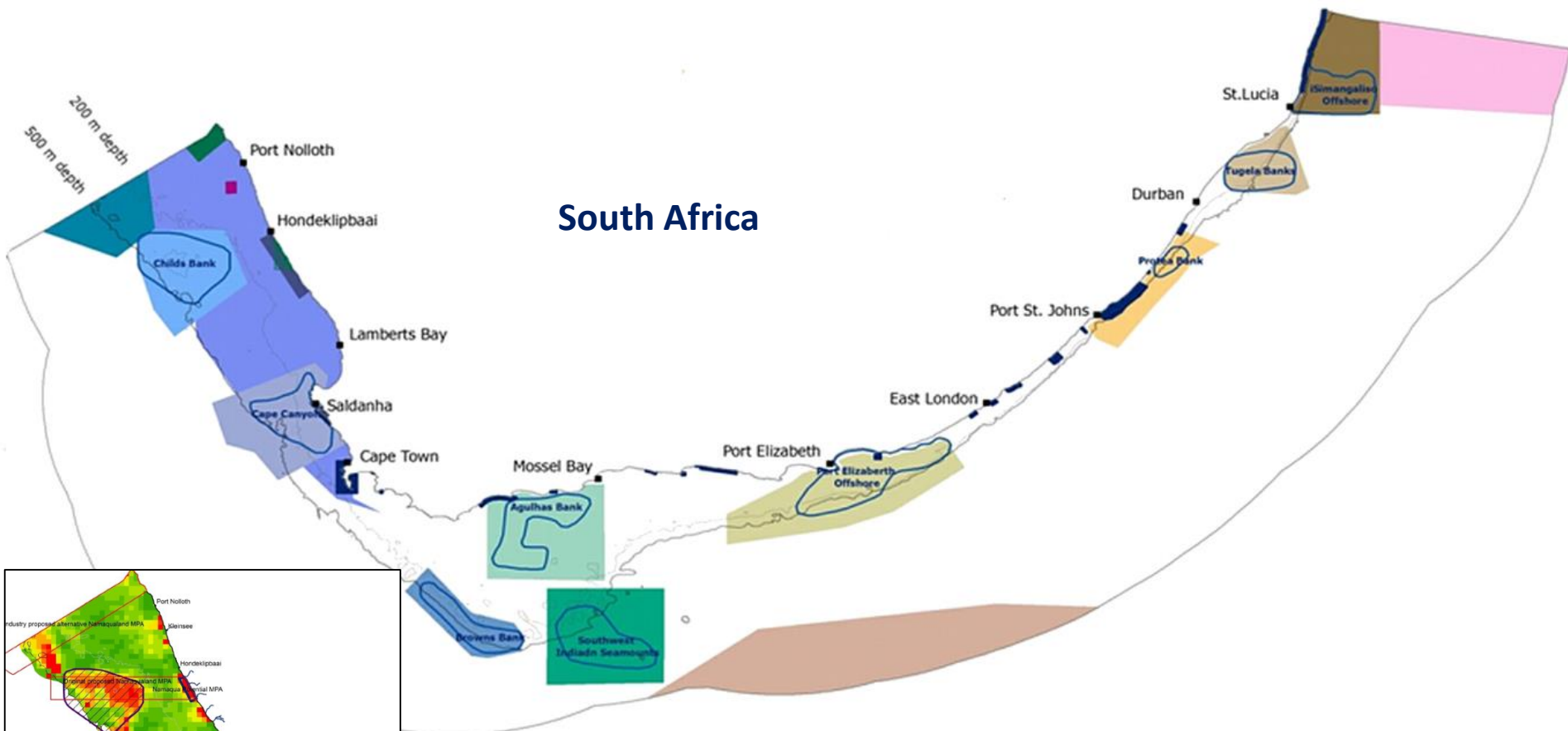
**1A) Revision of current
EBSAs**

**1B) Identification of new
potential EBSAs**

**(2) Status assessment of
EBSAs**

**(3) Management needs
and options - EBSAs**





Systematic Marine Biodiversity Plan for the West Coast of South Africa

SANBI
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE

WWF NEDBANK GREEN TRUST

WWF

Final Summary Report 2011

Offshore Marine Protected Area Project

Systematic planning to identify focus areas for offshore biodiversity protection in South Africa

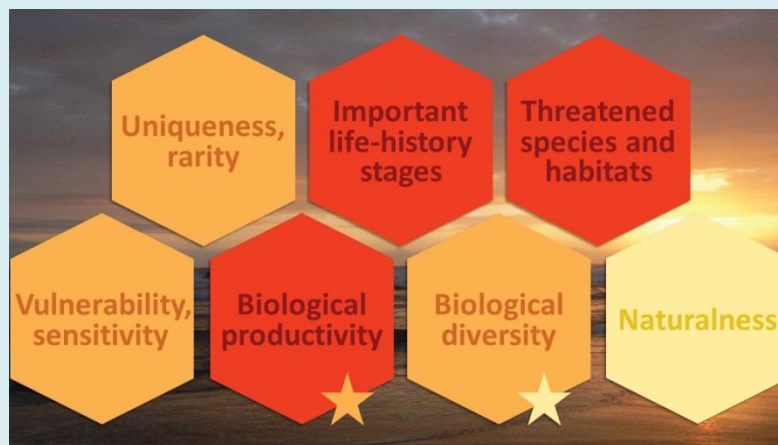
December 2011

Offshore Marine Protected Area Project

Final Summary Report 2011



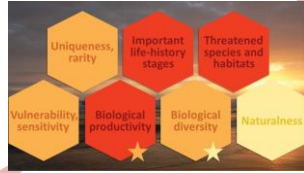
Natal Bight
↓
KwaZulu-Natal
Bight and
uThukela



SCP

- Spatially explicit maps of features, key species distributions and ecological processes
- Mapped industry footprints (pressures)
- Associated threat status of ecosystem types

Information on spatial conflicts, threat status, protection levels, etc....



EBSA

(1) EBSA Identification and revisions

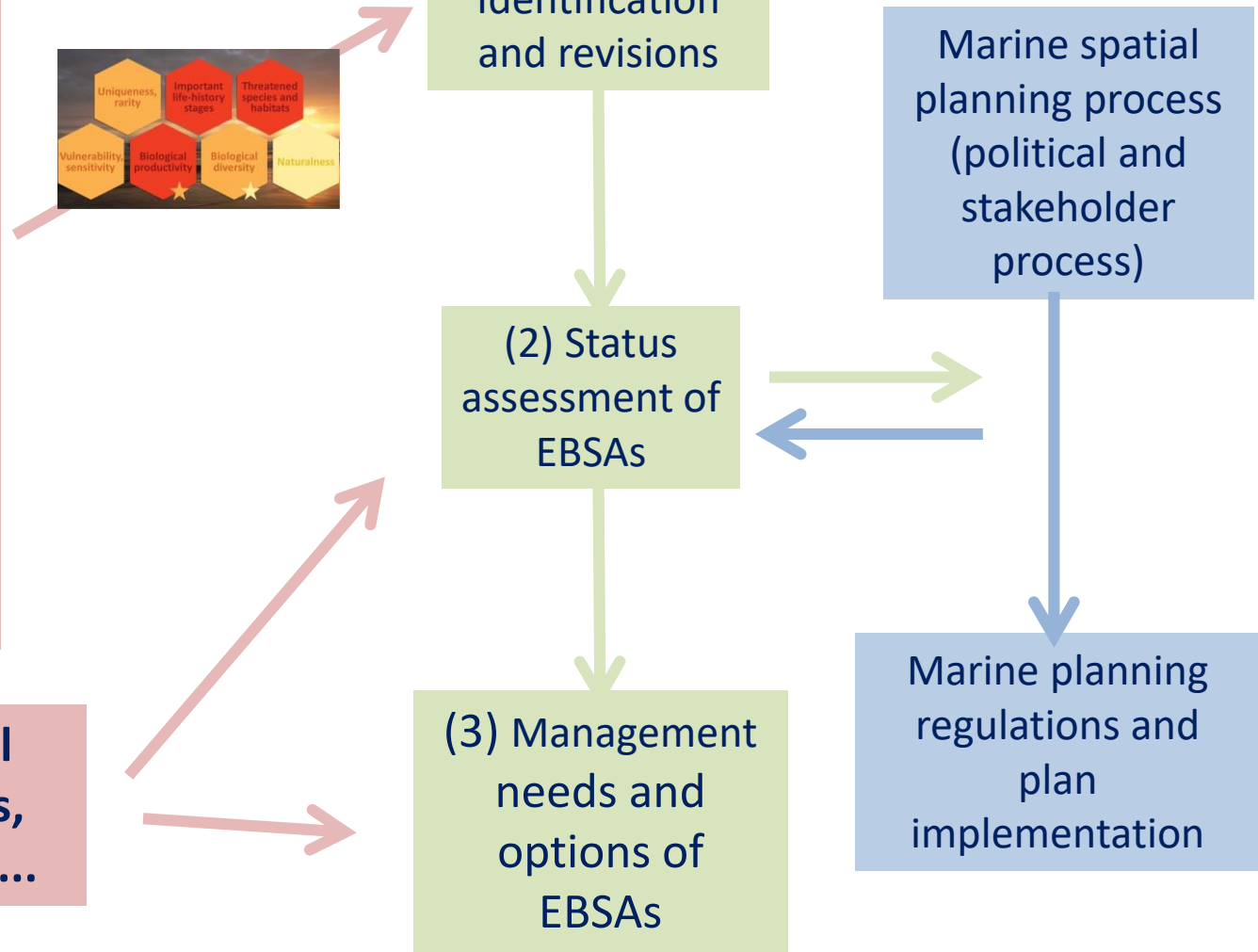
(2) Status assessment of EBSAs

(3) Management needs and options of EBSAs

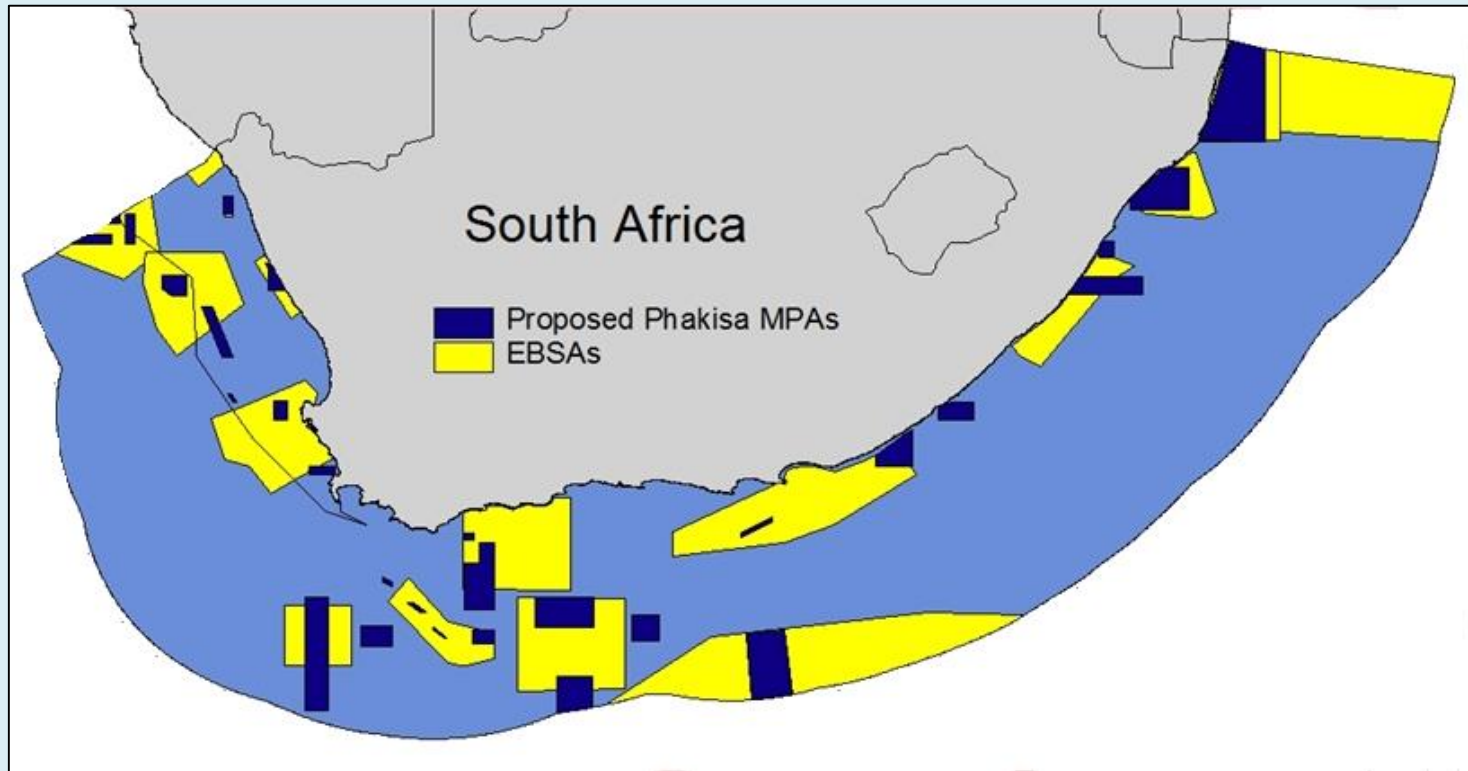
MSP

Marine spatial planning process (political and stakeholder process)

Marine planning regulations and plan implementation



- MSP – appropriate management measures for EBSAs e.g. MPA or other



- Demonstrates linkages between SCP, EBSAs, MSP and MPAs
- EBSA – assist countries to achieve biodiversity targets (e.g. Aichi 11)
- Importance of aligning with other national marine planning and management processes

THANKS....