

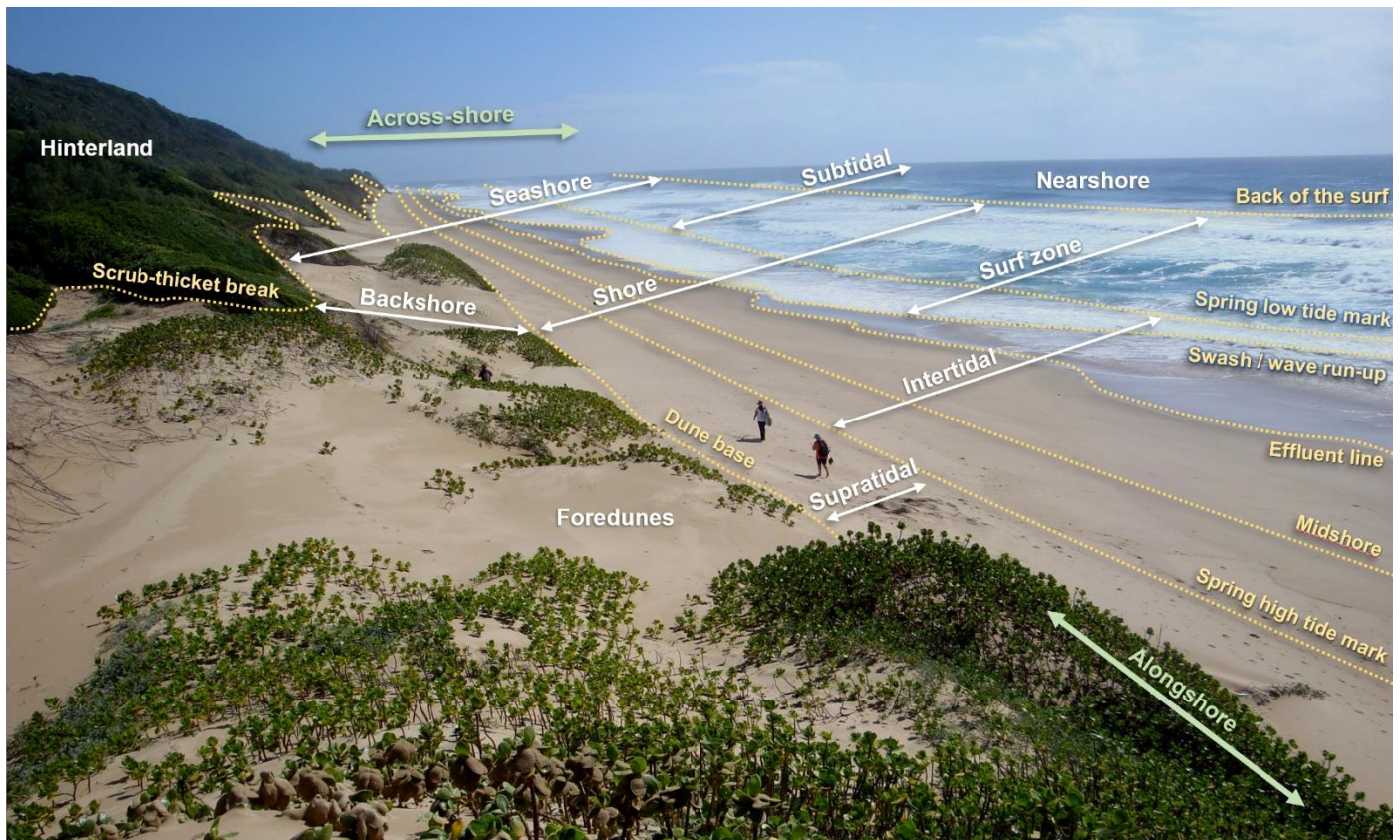
Supplementary Table S1. Definitions of coastal boundaries and terms that are recommended to be used to improve consistency in coastal research and management in South Africa.

Term	Definition
LEGAL DEFINITIONS from the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (No. 24 of 2008)	
Coastal access land	<p>Land designated as coastal access land in terms of section 18(1), read with section 26.</p> <p>(1) Each municipality whose area includes coastal public property must within four years of the commencement of this Act, make a by-law that designates strips of land as coastal access land in order to secure public access to that coastal public property.</p> <p>(2) Coastal access land is subject to a public access servitude in favour of the local municipality within whose area of jurisdiction it is situated and in terms of which members of the public may use that land to gain access to coastal public property.</p>
Coastal protected areas	A protected area that is situated wholly or partially within the coastal zone and that is managed by, or on behalf of, an organ of state, but excludes any part of such a protected area that has been excised from the coastal zone in terms of section 22
Coastal protection zone	<p>(1) Subject to subsection (2), the coastal protection zone consists of—</p> <p>(a) land falling within an area declared in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989), as a sensitive coastal area within which activities identified in terms of section 21(1) of that Act may not be undertaken without an authorisation;</p> <p>(b) any part of the littoral active zone that is not coastal public property;</p> <p>(c) any coastal protection area, or part of such area, which is not coastal public property;</p> <p>(d) any land unit situated wholly or partially within one kilometre of the highwater mark which, when this Act came into force—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) was zoned for agricultural or undetermined use; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) was not zoned and was not part of a lawfully established township, urban area or other human settlement;</p> <p>(e) any land unit not referred to in paragraph (d) that is situated wholly or partially within 100 metres of the high-water mark;</p> <p>(f) any coastal wetland, lake, lagoon or dam which is situated wholly or partially within a land unit referred to in paragraph (d)(i) or (e);</p> <p>(g) any part of the seashore which is not coastal public property, including all privately owned land below the high-water mark;</p> <p>(h) any admiralty reserve which is not coastal public property; or</p> <p>(i) any land that would be inundated by a 1:50 year flood or storm event.</p> <p>(2) An area forming part of the coastal protection zone, except an area referred to in subsection (1)(g) or (h), may be excised from the coastal protection zone in terms of section 26.</p>
Coastal public property	<p>Coastal public property consists of—</p> <p>(a) coastal waters;</p> <p>(b) land submerged by coastal waters, including—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) land flooded by coastal waters which subsequently becomes part of the bed of coastal waters; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) the substrata beneath such land;</p> <p>(c) any island, whether natural or artificial, within coastal waters, but excluding—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) any part of an island that was lawfully alienated before this Act commenced; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) any part of an artificially created island (other than the seashore of that island) that is proclaimed by the Minister to be excluded from coastal public property;</p>

Term	Definition
	<p>(d) the seashore, but excluding—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) any portion of the seashore below the high-water mark which was lawfully alienated before the Sea-Shore Act, 1935 (Act No. 21 of 1935) took effect or which was lawfully alienated in terms of that Act and which has not subsequently been re-incorporated into the seashore; and (ii) any portion of a coastal cliff that was lawfully alienated before this Act took effect and is not owned by the State; <p>(e) the seashore of a privately owned island within coastal waters;</p> <p>(f) any admiralty reserve owned by the State;</p> <p>(g) any state-owned land declared under section 8 to be coastal public property; or</p> <p>(h) any natural resources on or in—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) any coastal public property of a category mentioned in paragraph (a) to (g); (ii) the exclusive economic zone, or in or on the continental shelf as contemplated in sections 7 and 8 of the Maritime Zones Act, 1994 (Act No. 15 of 1994), respectively; or (iii) any harbour, work or other installation on or in any coastal public property of a category mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (h) that is owned by an organ of state.
Coastal waters	<p>(a) marine waters that form part of the internal waters or territorial waters of the Republic referred to in sections 3 and 4 of the Maritime Zones Act, 1994 (Act No. 15 of 1994), respectively; and</p> <p>(b) subject to section 26, any estuary.</p>
Internal waters	<p>The internal waters of the Republic shall comprise-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) all waters landward of the baselines; and (b) all harbours. (From the Maritime Zones Act, No. 15 of 1994).
Exclusive economic zone	<p>The exclusive economic zone of the Republic referred to in section 7 of the Maritime Zones Act 1994 (Act No. 15 of 1994). Which is:</p> <p>The sea beyond the territorial waters referred to in section 4, but within a distance of two hundred nautical miles from the baselines, shall be the exclusive economic zone of the Republic.</p>
Seashore	<p>Subject to section 26, means the area between the low-water mark and the high-water mark.</p>
Territorial waters	<p>The sea within a distance of twelve nautical miles from the baselines shall be the territorial waters of the Republic. (From the Maritime Zones Act, No. 15 of 1994).</p>
RECOMMENDED DEFINITIONS (adapted from SANBI, 2023)	
Coast / coastal zone	<p>A cross-realm zone that extends from the land into the sea, the specific boundaries of which depend on the context in which it is being used and typically differs in legal, planning and assessment contexts.</p> <p>Notes: In the South African National Ecosystem Classification System (SA-NECS), the coast is not seen as a realm but rather as <i>cross-realm</i>, or a <i>cross-realm zone</i> made up of ecosystem types from the terrestrial and marine realms that are influenced by both land and sea, as well as all estuarine ecosystems. Some inland aquatic ecosystems and features are also be considered part of the coastal zone.</p> <p>There are many different ways to conceptualise and map the coast for different purposes. For example, the coastal zone as defined in the Integrated Coastal Management Act (No. 24 of 2008) uses fixed buffer distances from the high-water mark. No spatial extent is definitively tied to the coast or coastal zone. This means that it is always important to be specific about which definition and delineation of the coast or coastal zone is being used. For</p>

Term	Definition
	<p>spatial biodiversity assessment in South Africa, the <i>ecologically determined coastal zone</i> is typically used. Spatial biodiversity prioritisation and planning may require a different extent, e.g. tied more closely to administrative, legal, or other boundaries.</p>
Coastline	<p>The land-sea interface.</p> <p>Notes: ‘Coastline’ is a general term and does not refer to a specific line, such as the high-water mark, dune base, spring low tide mark, etc. It should not be used to describe the landward or seaward boundary of a planning or assessment domain (e.g. ‘up to the coastline’) because it is a non-specific term. ‘Coastline’ is sometimes used synonymously with ‘shoreline’, which is also a general term that does not refer to a specific boundary.</p> <p>Because the landward extent of the sea moves constantly with waves and tides, the coastline (or shoreline) is not a fixed line on the shore. Nevertheless, it must often be represented as a line in spatial biodiversity assessment, prioritisation and planning. How the coastline is delineated can substantially affect the outputs of spatial biodiversity assessment and prioritisation for ecosystem types in the coastal zone, especially the narrow shores.</p> <p>In the context of spatial biodiversity assessment, prioritisation and planning, the <i>dune base</i> should preferably be used to represent the coastline because it is ecologically defined and provides a seamless boundary between the terrestrial and marine realms. Use the phrase ‘up to the dune base’ to describe the landward or seaward boundary of the planning or assessment domain.</p>
Dune base	<p>The toe of the dunes, used to represent a decadal scale high-water mark.</p> <p>Notes: Often used to represent the coastline in spatial biodiversity assessment, prioritisation or planning because it is ecologically defined and provides a seamless boundary between the terrestrial and marine realms.</p>
Ecologically determined coastal zone (ECDZ)	<p>All ecosystem types influenced by both the land and sea, spanning semi-coastal and coastal vegetation, through estuaries and shores, to the seaward edge of the inner shelf, bays and river-influenced marine ecosystem types.</p> <p>Notes: This is an ecological definition of the coast, based on the characteristics of ecosystem types. It is used in the National Biodiversity Assessment as the basis for indicators and statistics for the coast.</p> <p>The ecologically determined coastal zone is made up of some ecosystem types from the terrestrial realm, some ecosystem types from the marine realm and all estuarine ecosystem types. They are ‘tagged’ as coastal ecosystem types based on the fact that they are influenced by both land and sea.</p> <p>The ecologically determined coastal zone is used for spatial biodiversity assessment. For spatial biodiversity prioritisation and planning, the coast should be delineated to support the purpose of the prioritisation or plan concerned.</p> <p>‘Ecologically determined coast’ is an acceptable shortened form of ‘ecologically determined coastal zone’. In the context of a particular document, it is probably best to stick to one or the other and not use them interchangeably.</p> <p>Avoid accidentally using ‘ecologically defined coastal zone’.</p>
Seashore	<p>The zone that comprises the backshore (made up of seashore vegetation types) and shores, within which sand is mobile.</p> <p>Notes: The four seashore vegetation types represent the primary dunes (backshore) from the dune base to the scrub-thicket break. Shores are intertidal ecosystem types that extend from the dune base to the back of the surf zone. Together, the backshore and shores form the seashore, equivalent to the littoral active zone where sand moves naturally between the dunes and the surf zone by wind- and wave-driven processes.</p>

Term	Definition
	<p>The ecologically determined seashore forms part of the ecologically determined coastal zone.</p> <p>This is an ecological definition of the seashore, different from the definition in the Integrated Coastal Management Act. It has a specific delineation and should not be used in a general context.</p> <p>Not to be used synonymously with 'shore', which is the term describing intertidal ecosystem types. It is also not to be used as a synonym for the coast, coastal zone, coastline or shoreline.</p>
OTHER DEFINITIONS (see Figure S1 for an illustration)	
Alongshore / longshore	Parallel to the shore (axis along the length of the shore).
Across-shore /cross-shore	Perpendicular to the shore (axis from land to sea).
Back of the surf	The seaward edge of breaking waves.
Backshore	The area immediately adjacent to the shore comprising the seashore vegetation types between the dune base and the scrub-thicket break.
Effluent line	The point across the shore where the groundwater table intersects the shore to form the upper edge of the saturation zone
Foredunes	<p>The frontal dunes that are immediately adjacent to the shore, including hummocks, hillocks, embryo dunes, foredunes of parallel beach ridges, and gully-eroded cliffed dunes.</p> <p>Notes: The foredunes are often – but not always – the same extent as the backshore. Transgressive dunes (e.g. Alexandria) that have small hummocks and embryo dunes in front of the large mobile sand dunes are an example where the foredunes are not the same extent as the backshore.</p>
Hinterland	The area that is inland of the backshore.
Intertidal	Area between the spring high-water mark and the spring low-water mark.
Midshore	The middle of the shore.
Nearshore	The marine area close to the shore that is seaward of the surf zone.
Scrub-thicket break	The break between Tinley's (1985) dune Zone II and III, where Zone II is the shrub zone, including clumps of bushes, herbs, forbs, and creepers; and Zone III is the scrub-thicket zone that generally has a closed canopy from dwarf trees and shrubs.
Shore	The area between the dune base and the back of the surf, comprising supratidal and intertidal systems and their adjacent surf zone.
Spring high tide mark	The level of sea water during a spring high tide, usually marked on the shore by flotsam and jetsam that forms a driftline on the high shore.
Spring low tide mark	The level of sea water during a spring low tide.
Surf zone	The landward edge of the sea from the back of the breaking waves to the upper limit of the swash.
Swash	The most landward bore in the surf zone that washes up the shore.



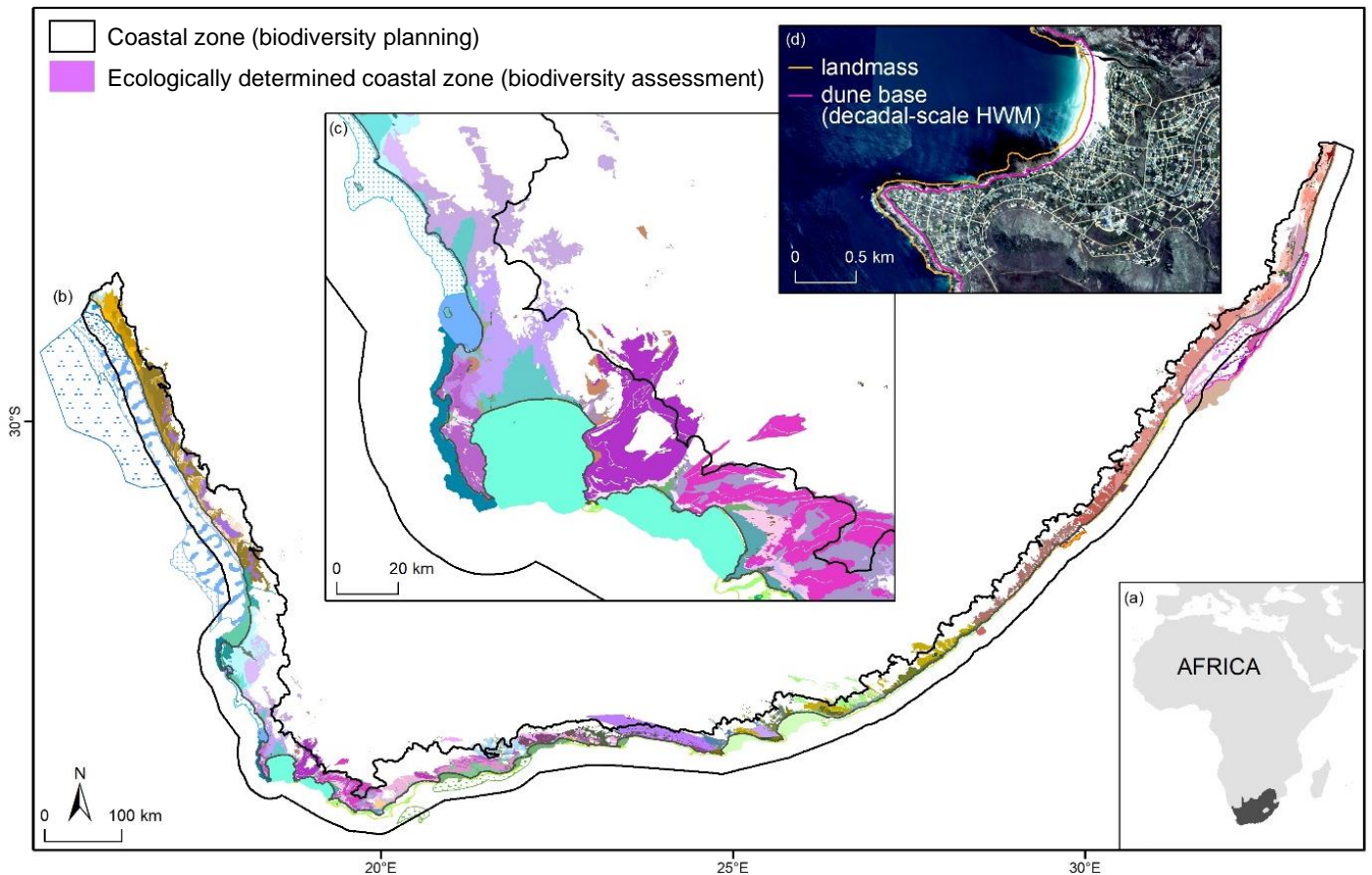
Supplementary Figure S1: Illustration of ecological coastal boundaries (yellow), zones (white), and axes (green). See Table S1 above for definitions. Photograph: Linda Harris

Guidance on which map layers to use

Standardising the extent of the coastal zone is more difficult because it depends on the context in which it is used. The legal definition of the coastal zone in the Integrated Coastal Management Act No. 24 of 2008 (Republic of South Africa, 2008) is: ‘the area comprising coastal public property, the coastal protection zone, coastal access land and coastal protected areas, the seashore, coastal waters and the exclusive economic zone and includes any aspect of the environment on, in, under and above such area’ (see Appendix 1 for definitions of each of these areas). However, only some provinces and municipalities have identified these areas (Lauren Williams, pers. comm.) and thus it is not yet possible to use this extent to define the coastal zone for national analyses. Moreover, this legally defined area isn’t appropriate for coastal biodiversity assessment or coastal biodiversity planning for two reasons. First, it includes the full extent of the country’s marine realm. Second, biodiversity assessment requires an area comprising whole ecosystem types in order to report on coastal ecosystem threat status and protection level (Harris et al., 2022), the extent of which does not align with the inland administrative boundaries in the legal definition.

Therefore, two other delineations of South Africa’s coastal zone have been defined: the ecologically determined coastal zone (EDCZ), created for biodiversity assessment by identifying all ecosystem types with strong coastal affinities (Harris et al., 2019); and a coastal zone for biodiversity planning, which extends from the 12 NM territorial sea to the inland extent of coastal quinary catchments (Harris et al., 2023; Figure S2). The latter was necessary to create because, although the EDCZ is well suited to biodiversity assessment because it comprises whole ecosystem types, it is not appropriate for cross-realm biodiversity planning because the outer boundaries are so disjointed and uneven as a result of the patchy nature and distribution of some ecosystem types (Figure 1c). Therefore, an alternative delineation was created for biodiversity planning, which extends from the 12 NM territorial sea to the inland extent of coastal quinary catchments (Harris et al., 2023; Figure S2). In the absence of being able to standardise to a single extent for the coastal zone, it is therefore important to state what extent is being used in each context, and to report to consistent, well-defined boundary lines where needed (*sensu* Table S1 and Figure S1).

In terms of representing the ‘coastline’, we are trying to standardise to only two lines: the dune base and the landmass line. The dune base (Table S1, Figure S2d) is a representation of a decadal-scale high water mark. This is the ecologically defined line that all coastal spatial data using in biodiversity assessment and planning have been standardised to as the representation of the split between the terrestrial and marine realms. For biodiversity assessment and planning, this is the preferred line, and we encourage those generating spatial data for the coastal zone to use this line to facilitate seamless uptake of those data into assessment and planning. When required to calculate ‘official’ statistics, however, the landmass line is recognised by DFFE as the seaward edge of the mainland and in such cases, is the preferred line to align with other national statistics for the country. Of the two, the dune base is the best representation of the high water mark.



Supplementary Figure S2: (a) Study area in South Africa. (b) Comparison of the delineation of the ecologically determined coastal zone (Harris et al., 2019) suited to biodiversity assessment because it comprises whole ecosystem types) and the alternative coastal zone created for cross-realm biodiversity planning (Harris et al., 2023), including (c) a zoomed inset of False Bay and surrounds. (d) Comparison of the accuracy of the landmass line and dune base, where the latter is a representation of the decadal-scale high water mark.

Links to map layers

- The **dune base** is available on BGIS: <https://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/213>
- The **landmass line** is available from ESRI: <https://dwa.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=9d139e8cbe4248e3ba389aa7fbd3af54>
- The **Coast Ecosystem Map** is available on the Coast Ecosystem Map project on BGIS, which is updated with new versions released as the constituent ecosystem maps are updated: <https://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/213>
- The **ecologically determined coastal zone** should be created from the latest version of the Coast Ecosystem Map, available at: <https://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/213>
- The **South African National Ecosystem Classification System** and links to realm ecosystem maps are available on BGIS: <https://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/1237>

Supplementary Table S2: List and area (km²) of coastal ecosystem types in South Africa per Realm, Zone, and Broad type (= Biome in Terrestrial Realm) based on the Integrated Ecosystem Map (version January 2025), which includes vegetation types from the National Vegetation Map 2024, Estuarine Ecosystem Map 2018, and Marine Ecosystem Map 2022 (see <https://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/1237> for links to all realm ecosystem maps). Areas sum to more than 100% of the EDCZ because some of the ecosystem types overlap; for example, vegetation types within the estuarine functional zone are counted in the extents of both terrestrial and estuarine ecosystem types. Estuarine shores are included in the extent of the estuarine ecosystem types and are not counted as marine ecosystem types

Realm	Zone	Broad type	Ecosystem type	Area (km ²)
Terrestrial	Semi-Coastal Vegetation	Albany Thicket	Albany Mesic Thicket	729.20
			Bethelsdorp Bontveld	35.52
			Elands Forest Thicket	40.47
			Gouritz Valley Thicket	176.66
			Grassridge Bontveld	245.85
			Motherwell Karroid Thicket	163.45
			Sardinia Forest Thicket	20.36
			Umtiza Forest Thicket	27.11
		Desert	Namib Lichen Fields	1.54
		Forest	Southern Afrotemperate Forest	787.99
		Fynbos	Albertinia Sand Fynbos	517.26
			Atlantis Sand Fynbos	689.05
			Cape Flats Sand Fynbos	556.96
			Cape Winelands Shale Fynbos	84.00
			De Hoop Limestone Fynbos	694.30
			Eastern Coastal Shale Band Vegetation	78.05
			Elim Ferricrete Fynbos	694.02
			Garden Route Shale Fynbos	563.62
			Goukamma Strandveld	41.66
			Grootbos Strandveld	39.60
			Hopefield Sand Fynbos	1009.61
			Humansdorp Shale Renosterveld	373.14
			Knysna Sand Fynbos	151.68
			Kogelberg Sandstone Fynbos	914.25
			Lourensford Alluvium Fynbos	35.85
			Mossel Bay Shale Renosterveld	866.54
			Overberg Sandstone Fynbos	1179.43
			Peninsula Sandstone Fynbos	219.45
	Peninsula Shale Fynbos		12.63	
	Potberg Ferricrete Fynbos		40.57	
	Southeastern Strandveld		119.05	
	Southwestern Strandveld		322.86	
	St Francis Strandveld		96.95	
	Tsitsikamma Sandstone Fynbos		2298.46	
	Indian Ocean Coastal Belt	Maputaland Wooded Grassland	1122.10	
	Savanna	South Eastern Coastal Thornveld	1527.83	
	Coastal Vegetation	Albany Thicket	Goukamma Dune Thicket	51.41
			Hamburg Dune Thicket	701.63
			Hartenbos Dune Thicket	596.32
			Kasouga Dune Thicket	307.52
			St Francis Dune Thicket	137.05
		Azonal vegetation	Subtropical Dune Thicket	12.98
Desert		Alexander Bay Coastal Duneveld	17.09	
		Western Gariiep Plains Desert	139.91	
Forest		Mangrove Forest	23.84	
		Northern Coastal Forest	680.54	
	Southern Coastal Forest	185.21		

Realm	Zone	Broad type	Ecosystem type	Area (km ²)
			Swamp Forest	100.52
		Fynbos	Agulhas Limestone Fynbos	286.97
			Agulhas Sand Fynbos	247.44
			Algoa Sandstone Fynbos	334.19
			Canca Limestone Fynbos	791.69
			Cape Flats Dune Strandveld	403.23
			Garden Route Granite Fynbos	498.21
			Groot Brak Dune Strandveld	28.00
			Hangklip Sand Fynbos	88.67
			Lambert's Bay Strandveld	354.28
			Langebaan Dune Strandveld	344.34
			Namaqualand Sand Fynbos	1300.97
			Overberg Dune Strandveld	46.82
			Peninsula Granite Fynbos	91.84
			Peninsula Shale Renosterveld	25.28
			Potberg Sandstone Fynbos	107.46
			Saldanha Flats Strandveld	1643.38
			Saldanha Granite Strandveld	298.90
			Saldanha Limestone Strandveld	61.58
			Southern Cape Dune Fynbos	76.61
		Indian Ocean Coastal Belt	KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland	4141.80
			Maputaland Coastal Belt	2355.70
			Pondoland-Ugu Sandstone Coastal Sourveld	1299.91
			Transkei Coastal Belt	1650.39
		Succulent Karoo	Namaqualand Coastal Duneveld	868.08
			Namaqualand Heuweltjie Strandveld	838.92
			Namaqualand Inland Duneveld	917.43
			Namaqualand Strandveld	3151.74
			Northern Richtersveld Yellow Duneveld	536.08
			Richtersveld Coastal Duneveld	508.06
			Richtersveld Sandy Coastal Scorpionstailveld	449.06
			Southern Richtersveld Yellow Duneveld	331.40
		Backshore	Azonal vegetation	Cape Seashore Vegetation
			Namaqualand Seashore Vegetation	13.21
			Namib Seashore Vegetation	6.44
			Subtropical Seashore Vegetation	28.11
Estuarine	Estuary	Estuary	Cool Temperate Arid Predominantly Closed	14.42
			Cool Temperate Estuarine Lagoon	60.07
			Cool Temperate Estuarine Lake	70.94
			Cool Temperate Large Fluvially Dominated	30.20
			Cool Temperate Large Temporarily Closed	39.52
			Cool Temperate Predominantly Open	152.60
			Cool Temperate Small Fluvially Dominated	0.04
			Cool Temperate Small Temporarily Closed	5.50
			Subtropical Estuarine Bay	28.15
			Subtropical Estuarine Lake	818.75
			Subtropical Large Fluvially Dominated	107.66
			Subtropical Large Temporarily Closed	52.11
			Subtropical Predominantly Open	76.90
			Subtropical Small Temporarily Closed	20.48
	Tropical Estuarine Lake	81.66		

Realm	Zone	Broad Type	Ecosystem Type	Area (km ²)		
			Warm Temperate Estuarine Bay	30.11		
			Warm Temperate Estuarine Lake	143.42		
			Warm Temperate Large Fluvially Dominated	5.73		
			Warm Temperate Large Temporarily Closed	69.26		
			Warm Temperate Predominantly Open	176.69		
			Warm Temperate Small Fluvially Dominated	1.22		
			Warm Temperate Small Temporarily Closed	16.10		
		Micro-estuary	Cool Temperate Micro-estuary	1.34		
			Subtropical Micro-estuary	2.27		
			Warm Temperate Micro-estuary	2.75		
		Marine	Shore	Rocky shore	Agulhas Boulder Shore	1.63
					Agulhas Exposed Rocky Shore	89.49
					Agulhas Exposed Stromatolite Rocky Shore	8.30
					Agulhas Sheltered Rocky Shore	1.32
					Agulhas Very Exposed Rocky Shore	9.07
					Agulhas Very Exposed Stromatolite Rocky Shore	1.27
					Cape Boulder Shore	2.62
Cape Exposed Rocky Shore	28.88					
Cape Sheltered Rocky Shore	1.48					
Cape Very Exposed Rocky Shore	0.52					
Delagoa Very Exposed Rocky Shore	0.27					
Namaqua Exposed Rocky Shore	42.49					
Namaqua Sheltered Rocky Shore	1.20					
Namaqua Very Exposed Rocky Shore	3.15					
Natal Boulder Shore	0.27					
Natal Exposed Rocky Shore	31.44					
Natal Very Exposed Rocky Shore	0.96					
Mixed shore	Agulhas Mixed Shore				188.08	
	Agulhas Stromatolite Mixed Shore				8.36	
	Cape Mixed Shore			33.73		
	Delagoa Mixed Shore			28.99		
	Namaqua Mixed Shore			60.66		
	Natal Mixed Shore			69.48		
Sandy shore	Agulhas Dissipative Sandy Shore			25.15		
	Agulhas Dissipative-Intermediate Sandy Shore			116.44		
	Agulhas Intermediate Sandy Shore			14.45		
	Agulhas Reflective Sandy Shore			0.87		
	Natal-Delagoa Dissipative Sandy Shore			0.71		
	Natal-Delagoa Dissipative-Intermediate Sandy Shore			32.85		
	Natal-Delagoa Intermediate Sandy Shore			52.12		
	Natal-Delagoa Reflective Sandy Shore			9.44		
	Southern Benguela Dissipative Sandy Shore			26.18		
	Southern Benguela Dissipative-Intermediate Sandy Shore			51.47		
	Southern Benguela Intermediate Sandy Shore			32.34		
	Southern Benguela Reflective Sandy Shore			10.54		
Island	Agulhas Island	6.45				
	Cape Island	2.95				
Coastal Marine	Bay	Cape Bay	254.37			
		Eastern Agulhas Bay	1631.19			
		False and Walker Bay	1681.23			
		St Helena Bay	980.82			
		Western Agulhas Bay	819.73			
	Kelp forest	Agulhas Kelp Forest	12.30			

Realm	Zone	Broad type	Ecosystem type	Area (km ²)
			Cape Kelp Forest	9.78
			Namaqua Kelp Forest	7.36
		Shallow rocky shelf	Agulhas Inner Shelf Mosaic	1853.57
			Agulhas Inner Shelf Reef	17.68
			Aliwal Shoal Reef Complex	5.22
			Cape Rocky Inner Shelf	473.61
			Durnford Inner Shelf Reef Complex	460.54
			Kei Fluvial Fan	49.02
			Kosi Coral Community	8.04
			Leadsman Coral Community	12.49
			Orange Cone Inner Shelf Mud Reef Mosaic	533.86
			Port St Johns Inner Shelf Mosaic	48.54
			Sodwana Coral Community	5.96
			Southern KZN Inner Shelf Mosaic	258.87
			Trafalgar Reef Complex	58.71
			Wild Coast Inner Shelf Mosaic	253.03
			Shallow soft shelf	Agulhas Sandy Inner Shelf
		Cape Sandy Inner Shelf		526.20
		Delagoa Sandy Inner Shelf		174.51
		KZN Bight Muddy Inner Shelf		328.75
		KZN Bight Sandy Inner Shelf		145.87
		Namaqua Sandy Inner Shelf		760.25
		St Lucia Sandy Inner Shelf		119.96
		Deep rocky shelf	Durnford Mid Shelf Reef Complex	431.84
			Kei Reef Mosaic	93.69
			KZN Bight Mid Shelf Mosaic	534.67
			KZN Bight Mid Shelf Reef Complex	22.99
			KZN Bight Outer Shelf Mosaic	655.79
			Namaqua Mid Shelf Fossils	20.07
			Namaqua Muddy Mid Shelf Mosaic	11762.51
			uThukela Mid Shelf Mosaic	789.36
			uThukela Outer Shelf Muddy Reef Mosaic	531.75
		Deep soft shelf	Agulhas Muddy Mid Shelf	1732.35
			KZN Bight Deep Shelf Edge	1761.23
			KZN Bight Muddy Shelf Edge	515.73
			Namaqua Muddy Sands	12223.58
			Namaqua Sandy Mid Shelf	2862.71
			Orange Cone Muddy Mid Shelf	1959.92
			Port St Johns Muddy Mid Shelf	124.79
			Port St Johns Muddy Shelf Edge	129.38
			St Lucia Sandy Mid Shelf	646.80
		uThukela Mid Shelf Mud Coarse Sediment Mosaic	1348.70	

References

- Harris, L.R., Bessinger, M., Dayaram, A., Holness, S., Kirkman, S., Livingstone, T.-C., Lombard, A.T., Lück-Vogel, M., Pfaff, M., Sink, K.J., Skowno, A.L., Van Niekerk, L., 2019. Advancing land-sea integration for ecologically meaningful coastal conservation and management. *Biological Conservation* 237, 81-89.
- Harris, L.R., Skowno, A.L., Sink, K.J., Van Niekerk, L., Holness, S.D., Monyeki, M., Majiedt, P., 2022. An indicator-based approach for cross-realm coastal biodiversity assessments. *African Journal of Marine Science* 44, 239-253.
- Harris, L.R., Van Niekerk, L., Holness, S.D., Sink, K.J., Skowno, A.L., Dayaram, A., Van Deventer, H., Job, N., Lamberth, S.J., Adams, J.B., Raw, J.L., Riddin, T., MacKay, F., Perschke, M.J., 2023. Spatial biodiversity planning in the coastal zone: guidelines for cross-realm planning and integration, and a CBA Map for the seashore and estuaries. Technical Report for the MeerWissen Project, CoastWise. Nelson Mandela University, Gqeberha.
- Republic of South Africa, 2008. No. 24 of 2008: National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act. Government Gazette 524. No. 31884.
- SANBI, 2023. Lexicon of Spatial Biodiversity Assessment, Prioritisation and Planning in South Africa. Second Edition 2023. Compiled by Driver, A. and Botts, E. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.
- Tinley, K.L., 1985. Coastal Dunes of South Africa. A report for the Committee for Nature Conservation Research, National Programme for Ecosystem Research, South African National Scientific Programmes Report No. 109. CSIR, Pretoria.