

Responsible Management Authority

One of the strategic objectives of an EMP is to promote the cooperative governance relationship between the responsible management authority (RMA), government, organs of state, community members/NGOs, or any other supporting structures or organisations with estuarine-related duties and functions.

The designated RMA is responsible for the development of the EMP and the overall co-ordination of the actions of other implementing agencies, but not necessarily the implementation actions themselves. The NEMP further indicates that the RMA must budget accordingly for the development of the EMP, actively engage all the relevant stakeholders, and obtain formal approval for the EMP and formally adopt the EMP.

Estuary Advisory Forums

The Western Cape Government supports the formation of Estuarine Advisory Forums (EAFs) for estuaries, to mobilise civil society and empower participation in governance and management. The Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of EMPs (2015), note that “...continuous stakeholder engagement remains critical even during the Implementation phase of the EMP as local stakeholders fulfil the important role of being watchdogs or custodians...”. In this light, EAFs will typically provide a knowledge sharing space and at times perform a watchdog function for the EMP.



Who to contact?

If you need further advice or information on coastal or biodiversity matters, please contact:

Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

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George Office

York Park Building, 93 York Street, George, 6529

Tel: +27 (0)44 805 8600

Fax: +27 (0)44 874 2423

Email: enquiries.eadp@westerncape.gov.za

CapeNature Coastal Programme

Tel: +27 (0)83 236 2924

Fax: +27 (0)86 529 4983

Email: estuaries@capenature.co.za

Stony Point Research and Information Center

2411 Wallers Rd, Betty's Bay, 7141

Tel: +27 (0)28 272 9829

Further Information

www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp

mapservice.environment.gov.za/Coastal%20Viewer/biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/

www.environment.gov.za/branches/oceans_coast

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Western Cape
Government

BETTER TOGETHER.



In the face of a changing climate,
we can ensure estuarine resiliance
BETTER TOGETHER.

Estuaries

We include coastal lagoons, vleis and rivers that empty into the sea under the broader term ‘estuaries’. There are 290 estuaries along the South African coastline, 54 of which are found in the Western Cape.

Estuaries are defined by the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act 24 of 2008) (ICMA) with their boundaries determined by the limit of tidal action or salinity penetration in the river course, or by back-flooding.

Estuarine Management Plans

Active management of the whole estuarine functional zone, the adjacent shoreline and the river catchment above the estuary is required to mitigate the pressures on estuaries, and ensure their resilience in the face of a changing climate.

To coordinate management actions, ICMA prescribes that Estuarine Management Plans (EMPs) be compiled for all estuaries in accordance with guidelines found in the National Estuarine Management Protocol (NEMP).

EMP Compilation

The Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of EMPs (2015), identify three phases to the development of an EMP:

- Scoping, via a **Situation Assessment**, to ascertain the condition of the estuary, identify pressures and document the nature of stakeholder groups, regulatory processes and spatial context;
- Objective Setting, in the form of a **complete EMP** that draws on the Situation Assessment as well as stakeholder and authority inputs to define boundaries, activity zones, management actions, responsibilities and a monitoring programme; and
- **Implementation** during the ensuing 5-year cycle that allows for continuous monitoring and refinement.

Throughout, **stakeholder engagement** is encouraged. This may be in the form of formal structures such as an Estuary Advisory Forums, or contributions received during EMP compilation or review processes. Sharing of local information and monitoring data can prove invaluable in this process.

Where active **estuarine mouth management** is necessary, the EMP needs to include a specific assessment of the positive and negative impacts, as well as instructions on when and how to carry out intervention actions. These recommendations can form the basis for an application to the authorities for approval of a Maintenance Management Plan.



Adoption of an EMP

Once a draft EMP has been compiled, or an existing EMP has been revised, the EMP has to undergo a formal adoption process regulated by ICMA and the NEMP

Stakeholder Review	Public comment period as per ICMA, Part 5 of Chapter 6
Authority Review	By Local, Provincial & National, conservation agencies
Gazetting	The responsible management authority (RMA) would publish in a national or provincial gazette (allowing 30 days for comment)
Final EMP	Final revisions by the RMA
Submission for approval	The RMA submits to the MEC (provincial) or Minister (national) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledgement of receipt (within 21 days)• Verify compliance with NEMP and ICMA (S53)• Decision by the approving authority (within 90 days)
Adoption	RMA adoption <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign-off by the head of the RMA• Incorporate into the Coastal Management Programme or Protected Area Management Plan

