

## Chapter 30: Coastal Committees

### 1. Introduction

The Integrated Coastal Management Act (ICM) makes provision in Section 42 for the establishment of Municipal Coastal Committees with the intention of broad stakeholder engagement in the management of the coastline.

#### ***“42.Establishment and functions of municipal coastal committees***

- (1) Each metropolitan municipality and each district municipality that has jurisdiction over any part of the coastal zone **may** establish a coastal committee for the municipality and, subject to subsection (4), determine its powers.*
- (2) Any local municipality that has jurisdiction over any part of the coastal zone may establish a coastal committee for the municipality and, subject to subsection (4), determine its powers, which may include the power to establish local subcommittees of the municipal coastal committee.*
- (3) A municipal coastal committee contemplated in subsections (1) and (2) may include—*
  - a) persons with expertise in fields relevant to coastal management; and*
  - b) representatives of the management authorities of coastal protected areas or special management areas within the municipality; and*
  - c) representatives of communities or organisations with a particular interest in contributing to effective coastal management, such as port authorities, organs of state, persons whose livelihoods or businesses rely on the use of coastal resources, environmental interest groups and research organisations.*
- (4) A municipal coastal committee contemplated in subsections (1) and (2) may—*
  - a) promote integrated coastal management in the municipality and the coordinated and effective implementation of this Act and the municipal coastal management programme;*
  - b) advise the municipal manager, the municipal council and the provincial coastal committee on matters concerning coastal management within the area of jurisdiction of the municipal coastal committee;*
  - c) advise the municipality on developing, finalising, reviewing and amending the municipal coastal management programme;*
  - d) promote a co-ordinated, inclusive and integrated approach to coastal management within the municipality by providing a forum for, and promoting, dialogue, co-operation and co-ordination between the key organs of state and other persons involved in coastal management within its area of jurisdiction;*
  - e) promote the integration of coastal management concerns and objectives into the municipality’s integrated development plan and spatial development framework and into other municipal plans, programmes and policies that affect the coastal environment; and*
  - f) perform any coastal governance function delegated to it.”*

It is important to note is that the legislation does not prescribe that a Municipal Coastal Committee **MUST** be established, but rather that the local authority **MAY** establish a Municipal Coastal Committee if it wishes.

## **2. Importance of public and stakeholder engagement**

The City of Cape Town recognises the importance of public and stakeholder engagement in the management and governance of Cape Town. This commitment by the City is fulfilled in a number of ways including:

- The open governance structure of Council and its Committees
- Broad public and stakeholder engagement and consultation in the formulation of the City's Integrated Development Plan (IDP)
- The required adherence to the City's Public Participation Policy in the development and adoption of any Council Policy or Bylaw
- The opportunity for the public to engage with the City through the Sub-Council system

Public and stakeholder engagement and consultation with regards the management of the City's coastline is particularly relevant due to the diverse nature of interest groups, user groups, commercial activities, economic growth opportunities and employment creation potential.

However it is this very diversity as well as the extent of the coastline (306km) and its variability (highly developed vs rural) that makes the establishment of a viable, meaningful and representative Municipal Coastal Committee for Cape Town impractical. As such the City has opted not to form a Municipal Coastal Committee but to rather use existing functional structures to ensure public and stakeholder engagement and input into the management of the coastline.

## **3. Coastal Public and Stakeholder Engagement and Input in Cape Town**

Public and stakeholder engagement and input into the management of Cape Town's coastline will be actively facilitated through the following mechanisms:

- a) Public and stakeholder engagement and comment on all proposed coastal policies and bylaws prior to adoption by the City of Cape Town
- b) Public and stakeholder engagement and comment on the City's Coastal Management Programme (CMP) (this document) prior to adoption by the City of Cape Town
- c) Public and stakeholder engagement and comment on any substantive review or amendment of individual chapters of the City's CMP after its initial adoption
- d) Public and stakeholder engagement and comment, as required by the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), on any land use or activity that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment
- e) Direct engagement with the City on all coastal matters through the existing structures of Ward Councillors, Ward Forums and Sub Councils

## **4. Public Coastal Monitoring and Reporting**

Chapter 31 of this CMP describes the structured biennial City Coastal Report to be prepared as the Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of the City's CMP as well as the state of its coast. As described in Chapter 30, this biennial report will be made available to the public