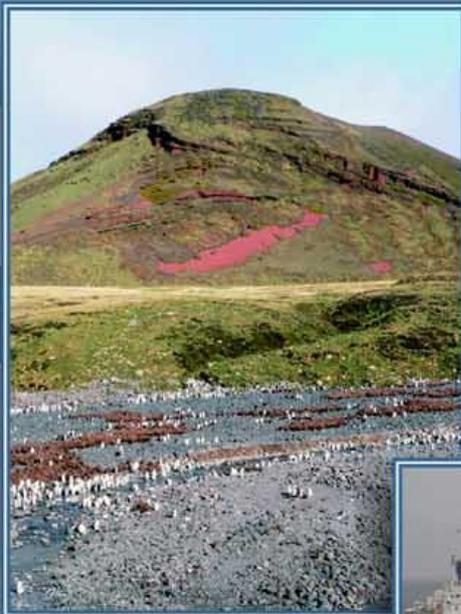


PART ONE: FRAMEWORK OF THE PEIMP

Chapter 1: Introduction



PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN



Chapter 1



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PART ONE : FRAMEWORK OF THE PEIMP

1. Introduction

1.1 Authorisations

This document is hereby internally accepted and authorized as providing a Management Plan for the Prince Edward Islands, as required under section 39(2) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003.

1.2 Consultation

The first draft of this Management Plan (MP) was made available for download on the CIB website (www.sun.ac.za/cib) and was circulated to Interested and Affected Parties for comment.

An outline of the draft MP was presented at a public participation workshop on 11 November 2005 in Stellenbosch. The public participation period ended on 18 November 2005.

Further consultation towards the final draft of the MP was held in 2010 with the Directorate: Southern Oceans and Antarctic Support, the Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations, the Chief Directorate: Biodiversity and Heritage of the Department of Environmental Affairs.

1.3 Purpose and Vision

The Prince Edward Islands (PEIs) have the highest level of protection afforded to any natural area under South African law. The islands were declared a Special Nature Reserve in 1995, to protect the islands' ecosystems because of their 'highly sensitive, outstanding' nature (National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA), 2003, Section 18 (2)(a)). In terms of NEMPAA, the PEIs are reserved primarily for scientific research and environmental monitoring (Section 18 (2)(b)). The boundary and status of the nature reserve cannot be altered except by a resolution of the National Assembly (Section 19).

NEMPAA provides for the protection and conservation of ecologically viable areas that are representative of South Africa's biological diversity and its natural landscapes and seascapes. The general purpose of a Special Nature Reserve is to protect highly sensitive, outstanding ecosystems, species, geological or physical features in the area, and to make the area primarily available for scientific research or environmental monitoring (Section 18). NEMPAA seeks to promote sustainable utilisation of protected areas for the benefit of people, in a manner that will preserve the ecological character of such areas and, where appropriate, promote participation by local communities (Section 2).

The specific objectives of the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve are to:

- Ensure the protection, survival and biological diversity of the islands' indigenous plant and animal species;
- Maintain the integrity and healthy functioning of the total ecosystem;
- Maintain diversity at every level, including the islands' biological, species and genetic diversity as well as the ecological processes;

- Protect geological and geomorphologic features, natural landscapes and wilderness attributes.

The South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP) is managed jointly under the auspices of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Directorate: Southern Oceans and Antarctic Support and the Department of Science and Technology and National Research Foundation, the latter being responsible for science strategy, funding and implementation. The mission of SANAP is to increase understanding of the natural environment and life in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean through appropriate science and technology.

The strategic vision of SANAP, as it applies to the PEIs, is to support national sovereignty at the PEIs and to coordinate research activities, optimise and produce credible quality science and technology nationally and internationally, the utilization and conservation of natural resources and to further international relations in logistic, scientific and environmental issues pertaining to the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic regions.

1.4 Spatial Extent of the Special Nature Reserve, and Expansion Strategy

The PEIs comprise Marion Island (situate latitude 46° 53' S, longitude 37° 45' E) and Prince Edward Island (situate latitude 46° 36' S, longitude 37° 57' E). Marion Island has an area of approximately 290 km² and has about 72 km of coastline. Its highest peak is 1230 m above sea level. Prince Edward Island, 19 km to the NE of Marion, is approximately 45 km² in area and its highest peak is about 672 m above sea level. This management plan applies to the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve, which covers both islands inland of the low water mark.

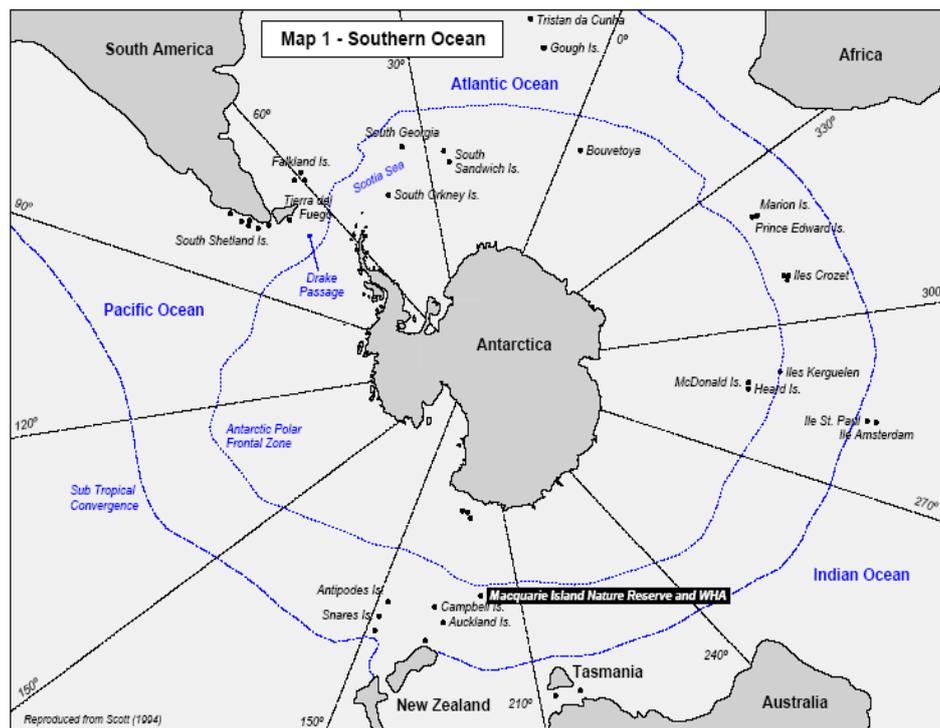
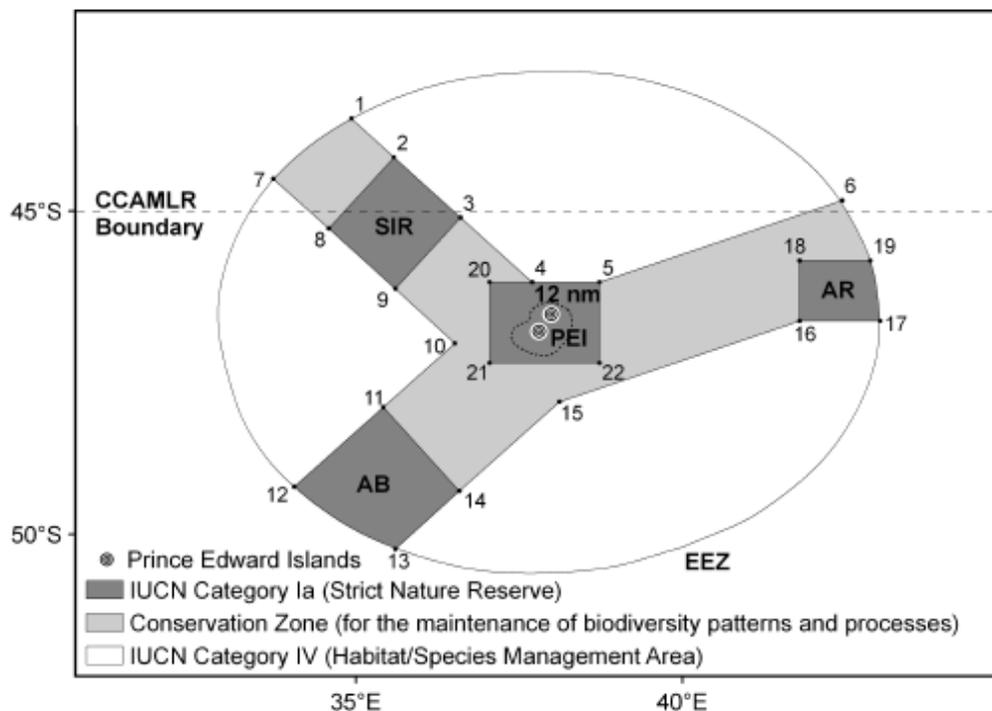


Figure 1-1. Location of the Prince Edward Islands in the Southern Ocean¹

¹ Map taken from: de Villers, M.S., Cooper, J., Carmichael, N., Glass, J.P., Liddle, G.M., McIvor, E., Micol, T. & Roberts, R. 2006. Conservation management at Southern Ocean Islands: towards the development of best-practice guidelines. *Polarforschung* 75 (2-3): 113-131.

The islands are situated approximately 2180 km SE of Cape Town and about 1770 km SSE of Port Elizabeth. Their nearest neighbour in the Southern Ocean is Île aux Cochons of the Crozet Island Group, about 950 km to the east. Expansion of the terrestrial area of the reserve is thus impossible. However, the marine environment of the islands is inadequately protected from human-mediated pressures. South Africa was working towards the proclamation of large Marine Protected Area around the islands. This encompassed territorial waters and at least some parts of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), extending out to 200 nautical miles (Government Notice 421 and 422 of 2009; Lombard et al. 2007). The first stage in this process has been the declaration of territorial waters (to 12 nm) as a no-fishing zone as of 2005. The Prince Edward Island Marine Protected Area was formally declared in April 2013.



Key to Zones. The central block shows the 12 nm Sanctuary Zone, the three outer blocks represent Restricted Zones at the Southwest Indian Ridge (SIR), Africana ii Rise (AR) and Abyss (AB). The lightly shaded areas represent Controlled Zones.

Figure 1-2. Proposed boundaries of the Prince Edward Islands Marine Protected Area²

1.5 Description of this document

1.5.1 Overview of the previous MP

The first Prince Edward Islands Management Plan was published by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) in 1996³, in response to the 1995 proclamation of the islands as a Special Nature Reserve.

² Map adapted from: Lombard, A.T., Reyers, B., Schonegevel, L.Y., Cooper, J, Smith-Adao, L.B., Nel, D.C., Froneman, P.W., Ansonge, I.J., Bester, M.N., Tosh, C.A., Strauss, T., Akkers, T., Gon, O., Leslie, R.W. & Chown, S.L. 2007. Conserving pattern and process in the Southern Ocean: designing a Marine Protected Area for the Prince Edward Islands. *Antarctic Science* 19 (1): 39–54.

Although regular review and modification of the MP was envisaged at the time of its publication, this update of the plan is the first to be completed since 1996.

Since that time, the domestic and international political and legal context has changed fundamentally, and South Africa now has an advanced set of laws governing environmental management and conservation. New environmental institutions, regulations, conservation practices and scientific advances have changed the setting in which biodiversity is managed.

1.5.2 Purpose and scope of this MP

The purpose of this MP is to ensure the ongoing protection and conservation of the PEIs by providing a comprehensive set of provisions for management. The MP provides both background information and detailed guidance on environmental practice on the islands and should therefore be read by every visitor to the islands.

The MP addresses both the core functions of island management (conservation and scientific research) and the support services (logistics associated with visits to the islands and provisioning, maintenance etc.), as well as all operations on the mainland which affect the islands.

1.5.3 General approach

The updated MP has a very different structure to the previous management plan. The approach used is based on the principles set out in the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems Standards series. The standards require that an organisation aims to minimise harmful effects on the environment caused by its activities, and to achieve continual improvement in environmental performance.

In practice, this means creating and using the feedback loops necessary to ensure ongoing learning and adaptive management. This can be achieved through rigorous implementation of the provisions of the MP, regular review and auditing, updating the MP in response to review results, and refining the instructions and protocols used by personnel. Key principles of the ISO 14001 approach are shown in Figure 1-1.

ISO 14001 requires an environmental policy to be in existence within the organisation, fully supported by senior management. In the case of government, this policy is set by national legislation and international commitments. These policies set the direction for the content and scope of the MP.

³ DEAT 1996. Prince Edward Islands Management Plan. Compiled by the Prince Edward Islands Management Plan Working Group and issued by DEAT Directorate Antarctica and Islands. ISBN 0-621-17584-6. Pretoria, South Africa.

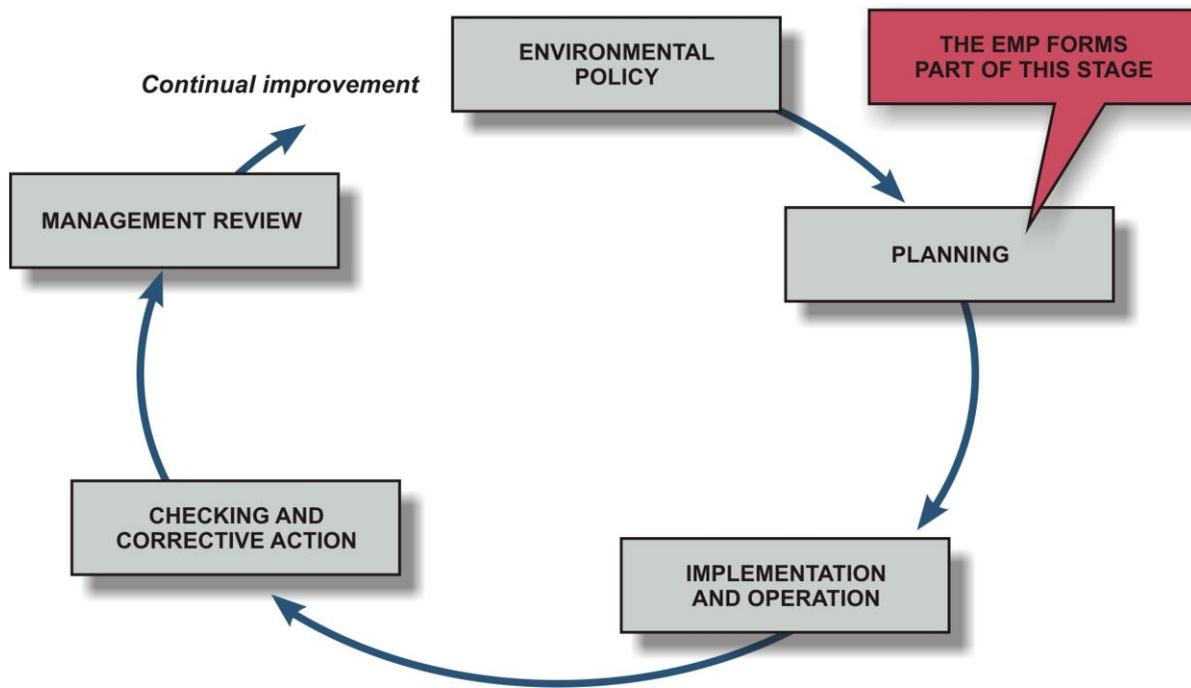


Figure 1-3. Summary of the ISO 14001 process for Environmental Management Systems

1.5.4 Structure

This document is divided into three parts. Part 1 describes the framework within which the MP was developed. It contains an introduction to the MP (Chapter 1), a policy framework (Chapter 2) and a description of the legal status of the PEIs in South African and international law (Chapter 3).

Part 2 contains the strategic plan for the Special Nature Reserve. It sets out in detail the provisions for environmental management of the islands, addressing administration (Chapter 4), biodiversity conservation (Chapter 5), historical conservation (Chapter 6) and waste management (Chapter 7). Each chapter in Part 2 consists of a legal and policy review followed by tables containing the environmental goals, objectives, targets, management actions, monitoring requirements, and remedial actions required to achieve efficient and effective management of the islands. The aim of the detailed tables is to explain and make clear the management methods and specific responsibilities of individuals and groups. Boxes are used throughout the text to carry specific sets of recommendations or guidelines. References are made throughout to supporting documents that can be referred to for additional information that is not required in the body of the management plan, but is nonetheless necessary reading for those involved in island management.

Part 3 of the MP provides costing for the strategic plan and includes a current budget and estimation of additional future costs.

The eleven items that have been identified for inclusion in management plans according to the Act⁴ are addressed in this PEIMP as follows:

- Authorizations (1.1);

⁴ Cowan, G.I. & Mpongoma, N. 2010. Guidelines for the development of a management plan for a protected area in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (edited draft). Unpublished document; Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa.

- Consultation (1.2);
- Purpose and Vision (1.3);
- Expansion Strategy (1.4);
- Policy Framework (Chapter 2);
- Legal Status (Chapter 3);
- Strategic Plan (Part 2, Chapters 4-7);
- Access (4.6) and Facilities (4.9);
- Zoning Plan (4.7);
- Concept Development Plan (4.10);
- Costing (Part 3).

1.5.5 Contributors

The MP was prepared by the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology at Stellenbosch University, with major contributions by Professor Steven Chown, Ms Sarah Davies, Ms Leonie Joubert and Dr Marianne de Villiers.