



## Types of Marine Protected Areas in South Africa.

South Africa categorizes its Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) into different types based on the level of protection and the activities that are prohibited. Here are the three main types of MPAs in South Africa:

### 1. Sanctuary Zones (No-Take Zones):

- **Level of Protection:** High
- **Prohibited Activities:** All forms of extractive activities, including fishing, harvesting of any marine resources, and mining, are prohibited. No-take zones are designed to provide the highest level of protection to marine ecosystems and biodiversity.
- **Example: Tsitsikamma National Park MPA (Sanctuary Zone):** This zone within the Tsitsikamma MPA prohibits all extractive activities to protect marine life and ecosystems.

### 2. Controlled Zones (Restricted Zones):

- **Level of Protection:** Moderate
- **Prohibited Activities:** Certain extractive activities are restricted or regulated. For example, recreational fishing might be allowed under specific conditions, but commercial fishing and mining might still be prohibited. These zones aim to balance conservation with sustainable use, allowing limited and controlled human activities that do not significantly impact the marine environment.
- **Example: iSimangaliso Wetland Park MPA (Controlled Zone):** Within this MPA, some zones allow regulated activities such as limited recreational fishing, while others are fully protected.





### 3. Multiple-Use Zones:

- **Level of Protection:** Low to Moderate
- **Prohibited Activities:** Some extractive activities are allowed under regulated conditions. This might include certain types of commercial and recreational fishing, tourism, and other sustainable uses. The goal of these zones is to support both conservation and economic activities, ensuring that marine resources are used sustainably.
- **Example: Table Mountain National Park MPA (Multiple-Use Zone):** This MPA includes zones where activities like fishing and tourism are managed to ensure sustainable use while protecting marine biodiversity.

These different levels of protection help to ensure the conservation of marine biodiversity while also allowing for sustainable use and enjoyment of marine resources.

