

## **Status of the Data Centres in South Africa**

**Background:** South African has different departments together with their entities that have mandate on the oceans and coasts environment. They also have different data centre/systems for managing the data and information. To mention the key ones:

1) Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) which have two entities, the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) which have a long-term monitoring data set and observation on the Marine (eLwandle) and Coastal (eGagasini) Nodes. There is also CSIR which does research and monitoring of the marine and coastal environment.

2) Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) which owns and operates database regarding monitoring data on rivers, wetlands and estuaries. This also hydrological data as well,

3) With the Department of Forestry; Fisheries and Environment, there is South African National Biodiversity Institute as an entity which is tasked with biological monitoring and reporting for both the terrestrial and marine environment, however the marine component of the institution is under capacitated in terms of personnel.

4) Within the Branch, there is Oceans and Coasts Research unit that has Marine Information Management System (MIMS) that house data and information from research outputs. More importantly is the long term data set from the monitoring line in the West Coast and also in the Algoa Bay, however there is lack of data on the West Indian side.

**Success: Taking note of the different data and information centres. The Country through Operation Phakisa: Ocean Economy had developed the Oceans and Coasts Information Management System (OCIMS) which is a decision support tool for the effective governance and management of the oceans and coasts environment. This is a “one stop shop” for assessing data and information. The system has the following operational tools:**

- a) Fisheries and aquaculture support that have satellite remote sensing capabilities of showing where the algal blooms are likely to be and or where are occurring
- b) Coastal operations at sea
- c) Integrated vessel tracking system
- d) Water Quality
- e) Marine Spatial Planning and Marine Protected Areas
- f) Modelling for coastal flood Hazards.