



EXTRACT FROM THE COUNCIL MINUTES HELD ON 10 JUNE 2024

Item A69. 10.06.2024

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES: REVIEWED COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME MAY 2024

F Kotze: Manager: Environmental Management Services

(Ref: 18/5/3/7/1)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report is intended to update the Council on the review of the Overberg District Coastal Management Programme and the associated consultation process.

BACKGROUND

The Overberg District Coastal Management Programme (CMP) of 2016 has been systematically implemented over the past five years within the constraints of available budgetary resources. It has been developed and executed per the stipulations of the Integrated Coastal Management Act, Act 24 of 2008, which serves as a national guideline for developing coastal management programmes in South Africa. The identification of priority areas was largely influenced by the Provincial Government's support, which provided funding for initiatives implemented throughout the Western Cape.

As mandated by the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act No 24 of 2008 (ICMA), the CMP must undergo review at least every five years. This second-generation CMP builds upon the strengths and weaknesses of the 2016 CMP and is informed by inputs gathered through stakeholder engagement. The CMP aligns with the implementation of current policies, strategies, projects, and legal mandates of local government, NGOs, and other stakeholders, while also establishing a clear implementation framework closely linked to the Nine Priority Areas outlined in the National and Provincial CMPs. Its objective is to promote sustainable development across the district, addressing factors such as climate change, access, land use decision-making, and local economic development.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder Engagement Planning and Rationale

Stakeholder engagement on the review of the Overberg District Coastal Management Programme commenced in May 2023. A questionnaire was created to enable stakeholders to contribute to the review of the Coastal Management Programme (CMP) and facilitate their engagement in the process.

The following questions posed to the municipalities were included in the questionnaire:

- *Do you consider the nine (9) priority areas identified in the Overberg District Municipality Coastal Management Programme (CMP) as encompassing of all coastal management related matters that are encountered by the municipality?*
- *Does the current format of the Overberg District Municipality CMP constitute a practicable coastal management implementation tool which covers all aspects for optimal coastal protection and resource utilisation?*

- Which aspects of the CMP have been mainstreamed in the key strategic planning documents of the municipality?
- Which measures have been taken by the municipality to translate the actions associated with each of the current priority areas into implementable programmes / projects?
- Which stumbling blocks have been encountered which prevents the implementation of each of the nine (9) priority areas and which of these priority areas has taken precedence.
- Which institutional arrangements have been made by your municipality to address coastal management matters?
- Are there any aspects relating to coastal management areas which are currently being focused on by the municipality which has not been incorporated / addressed in the current CMP?
- In your opinion, which measures are required to effectively implement coastal management.

Interviews were conducted with Cape Agulhas, Swellendam, and Overstrand Local Municipalities during May 2023. These interviews provided an opportunity to evaluate the ongoing relevance of the priority areas outlined in the Inaugural ODM CMP (2016). They also assisted with identifying any potential new coastal management priorities. The information and insights gathered through the completed questionnaire are intended to support the review of the CMP, which comprehensively addresses key coastal management issues across the district.

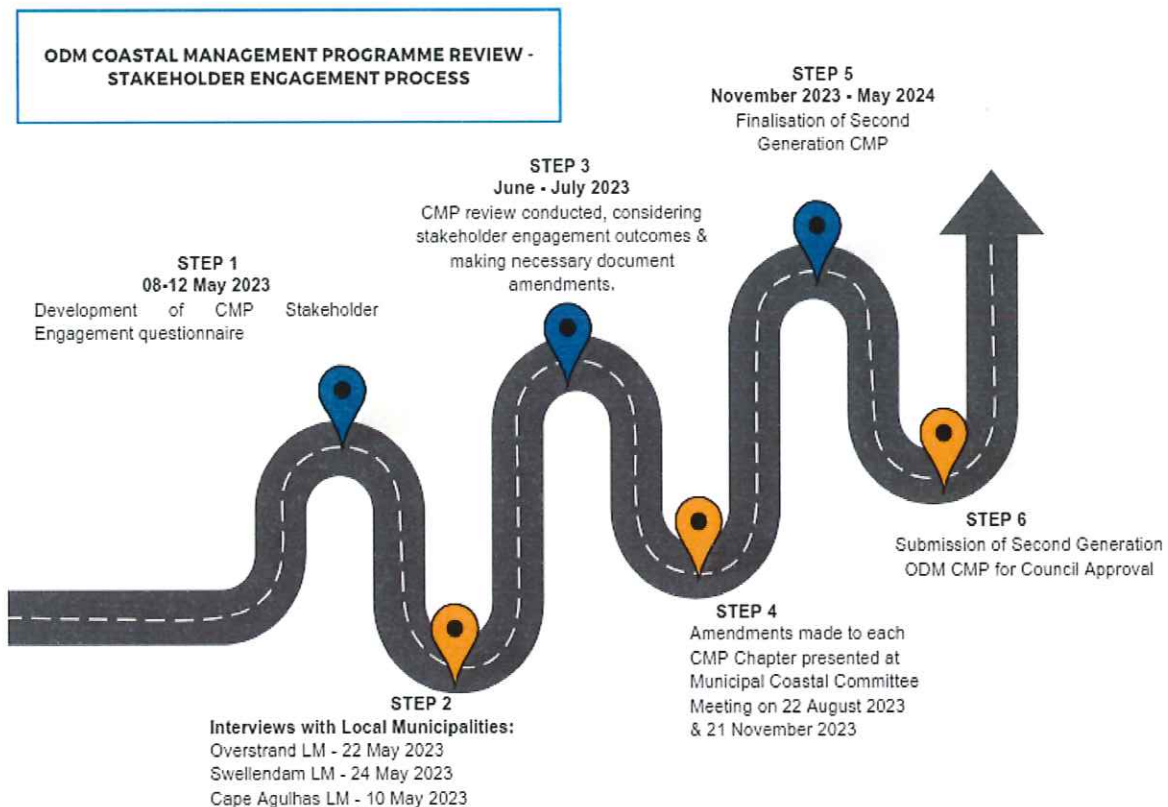


Figure 1: Overview of Stakeholder Engagement Process & CMP Review

Key Outcomes of Stakeholder Engagement Process

Following one-on-one engagements with the LM's, it was determined that the current CMP is impractical for implementation and cannot effectively serve as a tool. A significant emphasis during the review of the CMP was placed on generating an implementation plan that precisely delineates actions to tackle the identified priority areas consistently. Exploring the potential of an SLA for further enhancing the CMP, along with a funding mechanism, is recommended to enable municipalities to implement the provisions of ICMA.

Moreover, while the questionnaire facilitated and guided discussions on the review of the CMP, the level of engagement with the coastal municipalities and the extent of input received correlated with the number of resources (capacity) allocated to addressing coastal management functions. Each municipality is either planning or implementing several projects that could align with identified Priority Areas. However, these projects may not necessarily be informed by the nine priority areas included in the CMP. Key discussion points arising from engagements were streamlining the current CMP format and emphasizing the significance of the associated implementation plan. Projects related to coastal access were prominent in each coastal municipality.

Similar to the current arrangement between the Overberg District and Local Municipalities regarding Fire Protection Services, the possibility of using Service Level Agreements for coastal management matters was discussed. Establishing management agreements between the District and Local Municipalities could facilitate the distribution of funds obtained by either party to implement programs.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

- While the questionnaire facilitated and guided discussions on the review of the CMP, the level of engagement with the coastal municipalities and the extent of input received correlated with the number of resources (capacity) allocated to addressing coastal management functions.
- Each of the municipalities is either planning or implementing several projects which could be placed under the identified Priority Areas.
- A number of coastal management-related projects are either being implemented or planned by the municipalities, it was not necessarily informed by the nine priority areas included in the CMP.
- Streamlining the current format of the CMP and the significance of the associated implementation plan were key discussion points which emanated from engagements.
- Projects which relate to coastal access were prominent in each of the coastal municipalities.

CONCLUSION

The revised CMP incorporates all comments, input, and notable responses obtained from discussions and engagements with coastal municipalities in the Overberg District. These consultations aimed to establish a structured approach to facilitate meaningful stakeholder engagement, thus enriching the value of the resulting revised CMP. As indicated in the key outcomes of the stakeholder engagement process, the concerns identified during the municipal consultations included:



- Ambiguity in defining roles and responsibilities.
- Challenges associated with funding or funding mechanisms supporting Coastal Management functions.
- Inadequate capacity to ensure effective implementation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The document review was conducted internally with the support and dedication of the DFFE: Local Government Support Official and in collaboration with the B Municipalities, incurring no costs to the ODM. However, sustained implementation of the CMP over the long term will necessitate budgetary allocation.

RESOLVED : (Proposed by Cllr. S Fourie and seconded by Cllr. T Els)

- 1) Council adopts the Second-Generation Coastal Management Programme for the Overberg District Municipality, 2024 as the policy document for coastal management.

CERTIFIED A TRUE EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2024.



R BOSMAN
MUNICIPAL MANAGER