



environment
& tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



COMMUNIQUÉ

MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT'S PROVINCIAL RESEARCH PROJECTS - 2010 STATUS -

The Department of Environmental Affairs through its Branch Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) provides funding for research projects in three of the four coastal provinces, namely, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Cape. The purpose of this funding is to support MCM in fulfilling its mandate i.e. **To advise the Minister on the development and conservation of marine and coastal resources to ensure the sustainable utilisation of such resources, as well as to maintain marine ecosystem integrity and quality.**

Their current research priorities are focused on

- Conservation of Biodiversity
- Resource Use Studies
- Promotion and Impacts of Non consumptive Resource Use
- Environmental Processes focused in the Inshore Region and Climate Change

The administration of these projects is managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF) as a statutory research funding agency which has the specific institutional capacity and specialised infrastructure to deal with the funding and management of research projects.

In 2009, the total budget for these research projects amounted to R 1,739,250 of which R 985,641 is committed for ongoing 2010 grants. Under the current economic climate a 2009 budget *status quo* is assumed for 2010- which means that an amount of R 753,609 would be available for new grants to be made in 2010. Both the NRF and MCM considered that it was not viable to call for new research projects for 2010 funding given the available funding amount.

A call for 2010 MCM Provincial Research Projects will therefore not be made. However MCM will strive to commit to all ongoing projects extending up to 2011 (subject to progress made). A call for 2011 MCM Provincial Research Projects in 2010 will be considered by MCM depending on budget availability.

For any queries please contact:

Ms Renee Le Roux

Programme Director: Knowledge Fields Development

National Research Foundation

Email: renee@nrf.ac.za, Tel: 012 481 4056