

Lessons from the Offshore Environment Forum and the Phakisa MPA consultations: the value of a robust, inclusive and iterative consultation process

**INFORMATION SESSION:
MARINE SPATIAL BIODIVERSITY PRIORITIES AS AN INPUT INTO MARINE SPATIAL
PLANNING**

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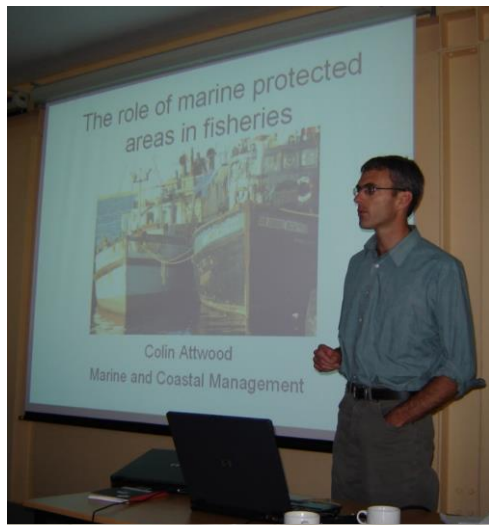
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Starting Principles

- It is important to acknowledge the right for stakeholders to be heard and to accept our obligations to account for stakeholders in our work
- The success of Marine Protected Areas depends on stakeholder and community support. Although MPAs are established by law and informed by research, ultimately it is the human dimensions of MPAs that shape their design, impact and effectiveness.
- South Africa's history has imposed additional challenges in stakeholder engagement, conservation efforts and spatial development that need to be recognised and addressed

Offshore Environment Forum



- Created in 2010 to provide a platform to continue work initiated through the Offshore MPA project.
- **Role: To build & strengthen relationships across sectors to improve information sharing and collaboration and support integrated knowledge, planning and management for the offshore environment**
- 2010: focus on legislative and policy tools for biodiversity
- 2012: focus was on industry good practice, marine spatial planning and the emerging ocean policy. NBA/EBSAs/CBAs/VMEs
- 2014 focus on Operation Phakisa & the Ocean Economy incl. MPA initiative
- 2015 Mining and biodiversity & Phakisa progress
- 2016 Multiple meetings supporting Phakisa MPA consultation

Stakeholder engagement processes 2006-2016

Offshore MPA Project

- 2006-2010
- Consultation from **project outset** (11 fisheries mining, 22 petroleum rights holders, shipping, navy, research, NGOs)
- **Individual & multi-sector workshops & review.**

Offshore Environment Forum

- 2010 – 2016 Annual meetings with additional focus groups to support MPA consultation
- **Co-operative research** projects eg. PetroSA & SADSTIA collaborations

Addo Elephant National Park

- 2007-2014
- National and local stakeholder workshops
- Quantitative socio-economic impact assessment

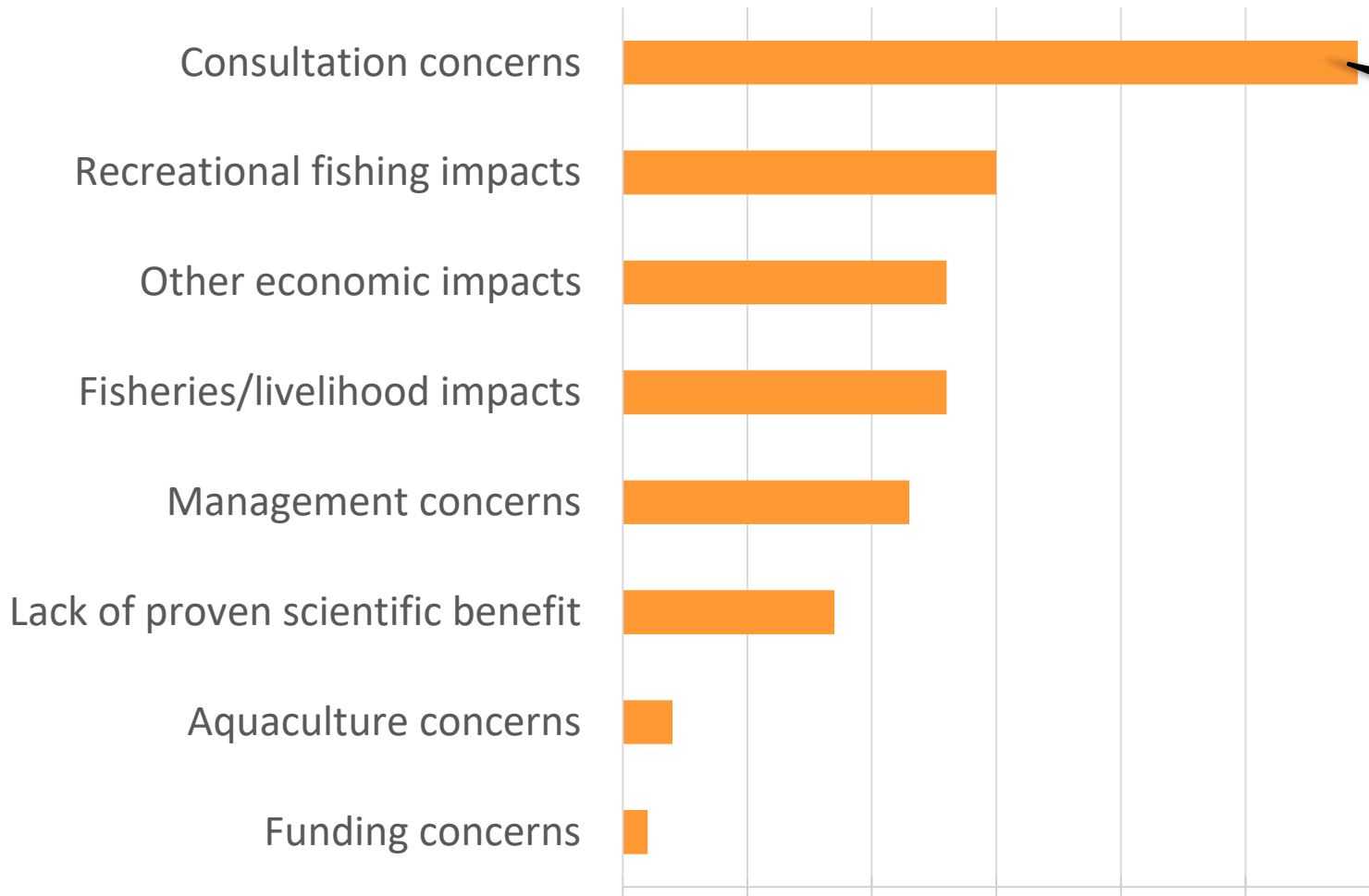
KZN MPA Expansion Plan

- 2009-2012 Seaplan workshops
- 2012- 2013 Focus areas workshops (Aliwal, uThukela)

Operation “Phakisa” Oceans Economy MPA Initiative

- 2014-2019
- Presidential blue economy project
- **Government consultation** process- included **all offshore MPAs, Addo and Robben Island**
- 12 in-process consultation events
- 73 follow-ups
- National roadshows in 2016
- **378 written comments**
- >30 additional negotiations
- Balanced compromise for 5% protection reached

Insight: Stakeholder consultation concerns were the dominant concern in the Phakisa MPA formal comment process

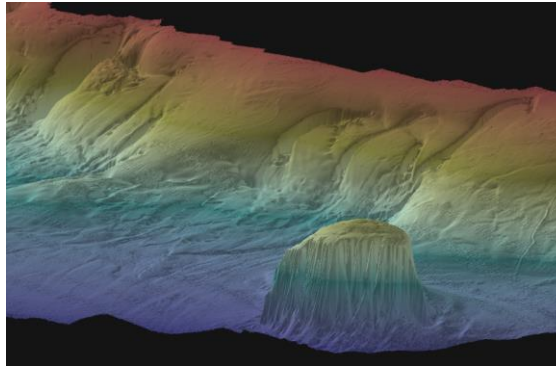


General
...*“Whilst it is acknowledged that there has been a level of consultation with key stakeholders during the process of developing the draft MPA regulations, the SSF sector has not been represented in the Operation Phakisa lab process nor in subsequent meetings.”*

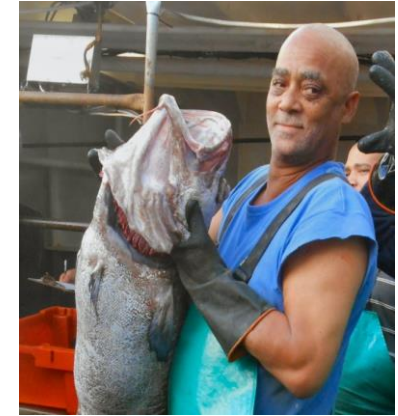
Lesson 1: Stakeholders matter: Stakeholders have valuable insights and data that can strengthen the scientific foundations of spatial biodiversity assessment and prioritisation, reduce conflict and support problem solving.



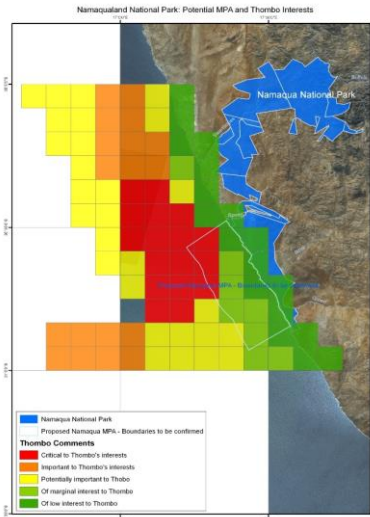
- Input into **objectives & approach** (eg. including eco-certification support, removal of retention target)



- Contribution to offshore **biodiversity data** eg. Canyon & Seamountmapping, PE Coral, Namaqua Fossil Forest, VMEs



- Accurate mapping of **stakeholder activity**, identify and mitigate in areas of conflict eg. Cape Canyon



Stakeholder influence in Offshore MPA process

- Assist in the identification of areas of least interest to **reduce impact** eg. Namaqua MPA Heaven & Earth Maps

- Involvement in **co-operative research** eg. PetroSA project & SADSTIA collaborations

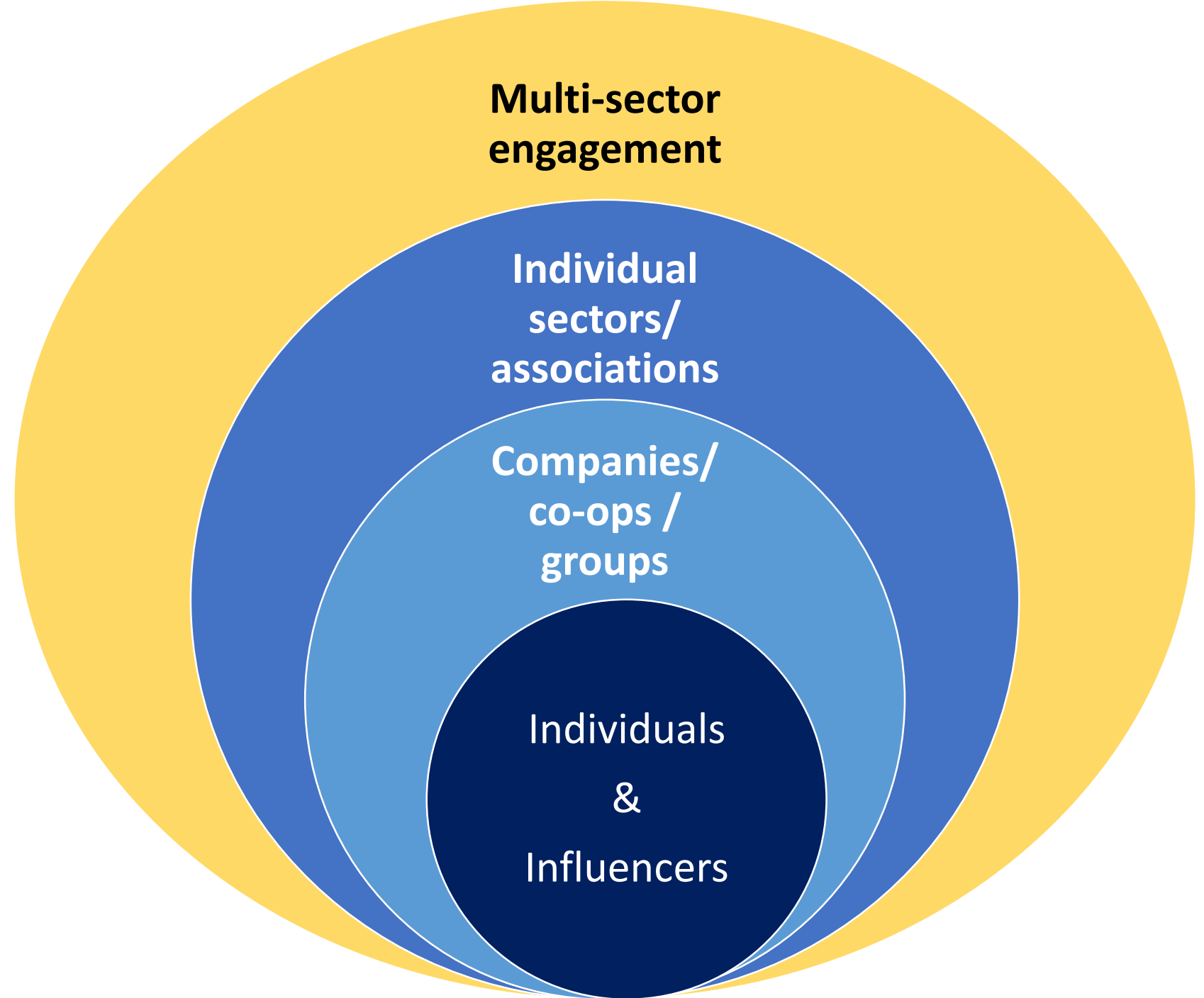


**Lesson 2: Recognise
and accommodate
Stakeholder
complexity**

Engagement is needed at
multiple interfaces/ scales

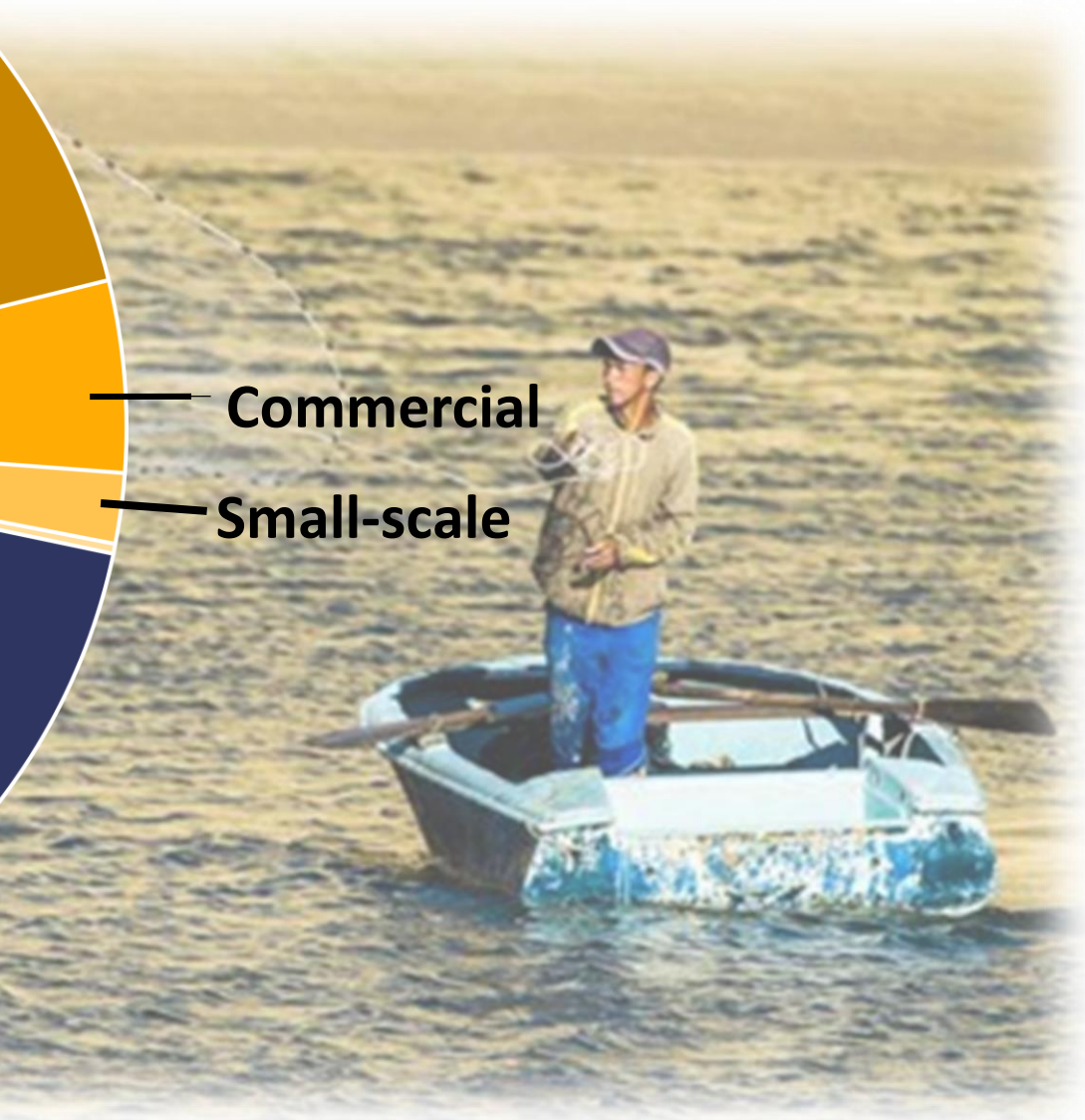
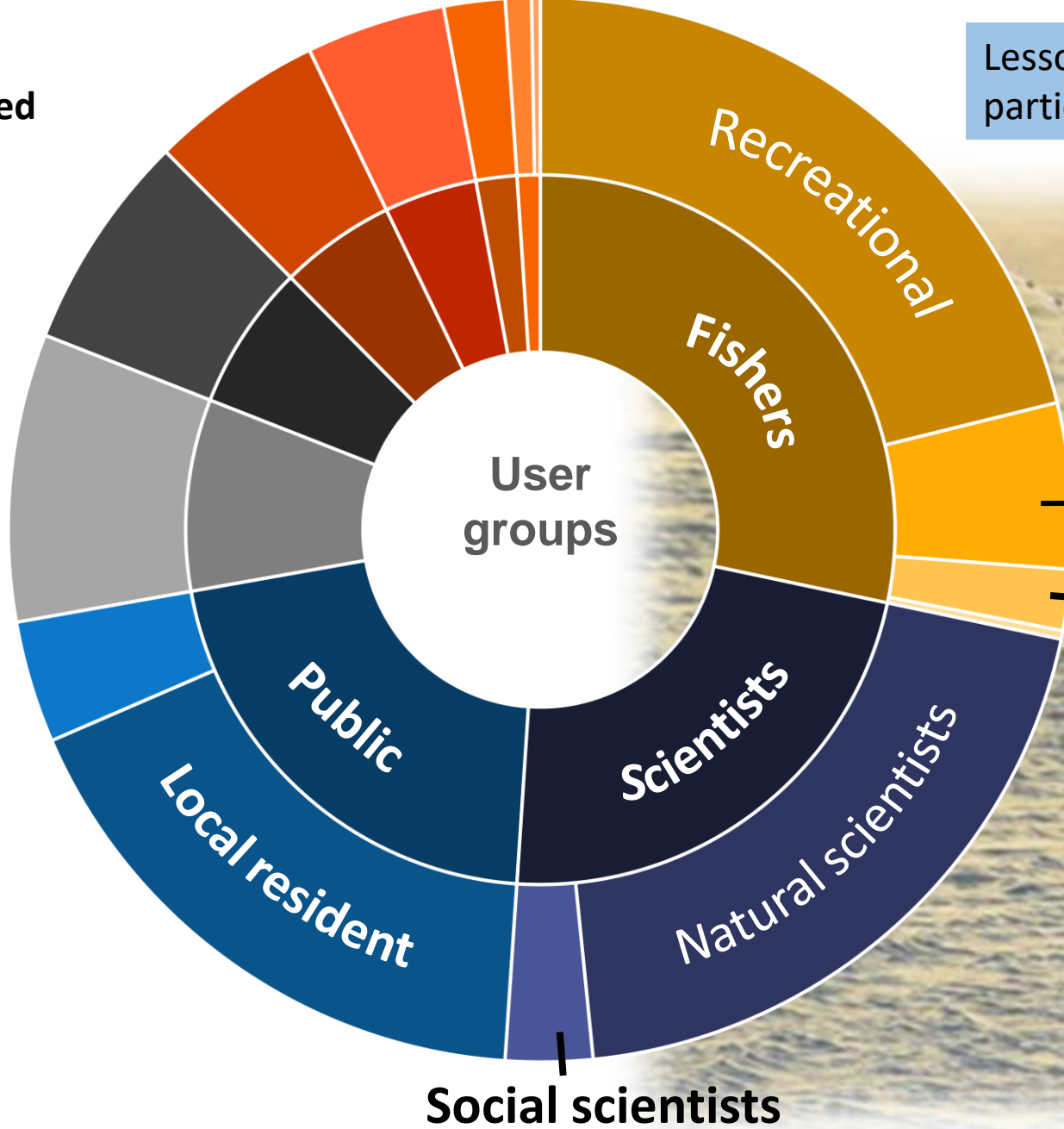
- Among sectors & groups
- Within sectors and groups

Individual and Multi-sectoral
engagement is important in
building a deep understanding
of stakeholder activities,
concerns, constraints and
opportunities



Who commented on the Phakisa MPAs?

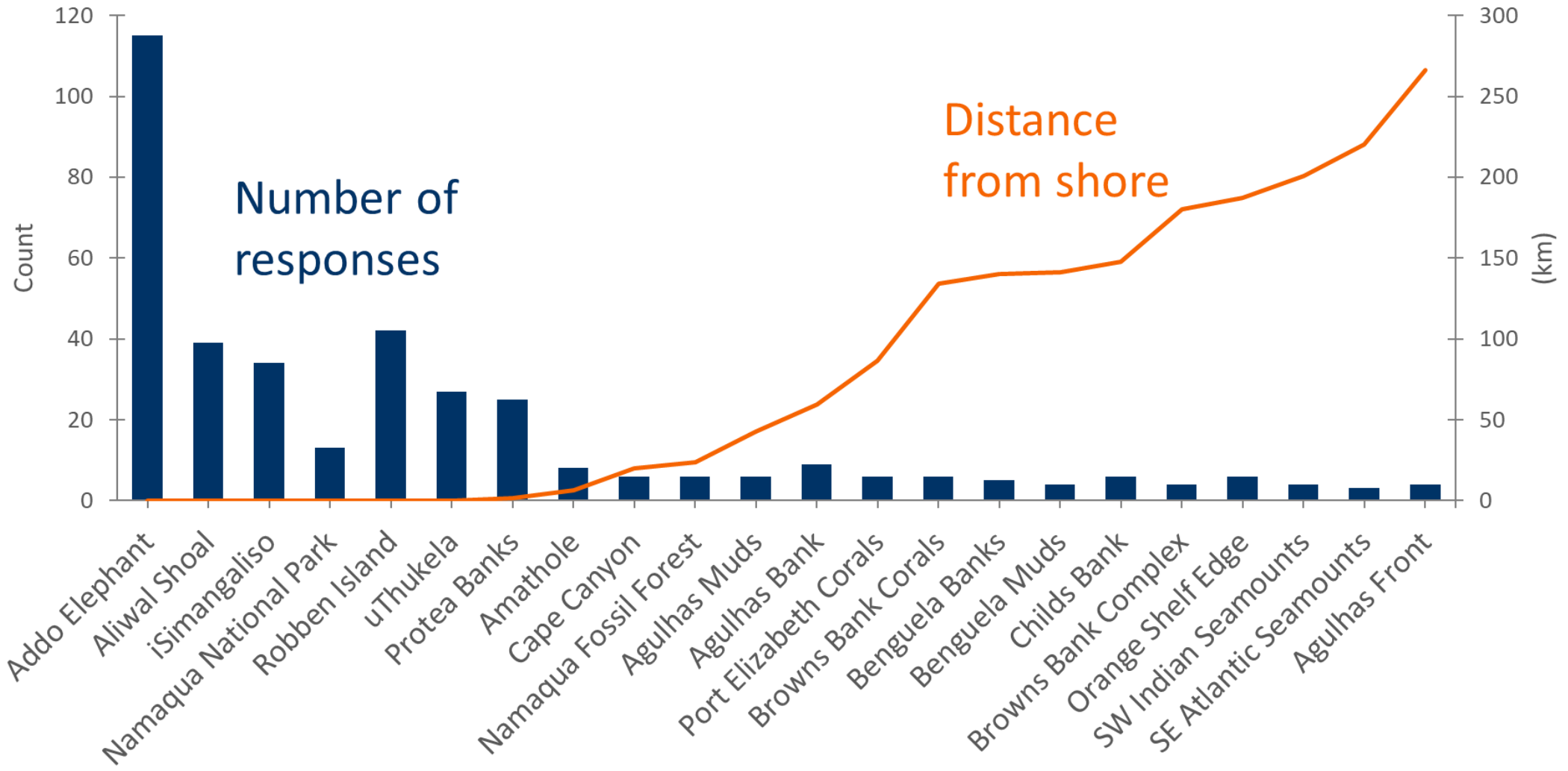
Lesson 3: Stakeholder engagement processes influence participation, perspectives and issues raised



Commercial
Small-scale

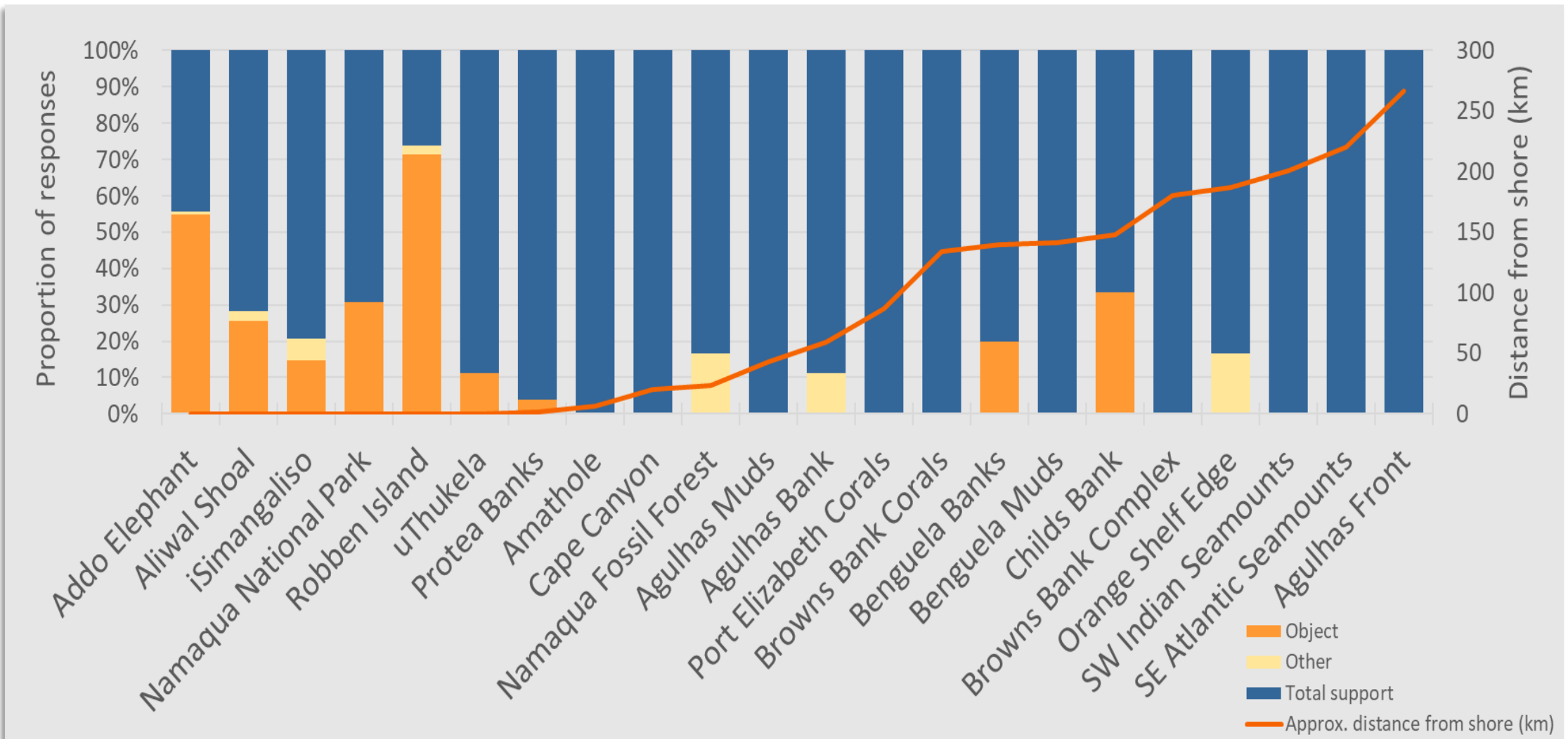
Social scientists

Lesson 4: **Coastal ecosystems** and estuaries in particular have increased interests, legacy challenges and **greater stakeholder complexity** and that need substantial investment and time to resolve



Analysis of number of comments per MPA in the Phakisa MPA Network

- Lesson 5: A lack of engagement can increase misconceptions (eg. Robben Island), waste resources and complicate negotiations BUT **Many factors influence stakeholder support**



Analysis of support/objections per MPA in the Phakisa MPA Network Comments



Summary of Key Lessons

- **Stakeholders matter:** they have valuable insights and data that can strengthen the foundations of spatial biodiversity assessment and prioritisation, reduce conflict and support problem solving. Engagement throughout the process helps build joint understanding, identify and mitigate problems early in the process and build relationships.
- Recognise and accommodate **Stakeholder complexity**
- **Processes matter:** Stakeholder engagement processes influence participation, perspectives and issues raised.
- Coastal ecosystems and estuaries in particular have increased interests, greater stakeholder complexity and legacy challenges that need substantial **investment and time** to resolve
- A lack of engagement can increase misconceptions ,waste resources and complicate negotiations BUT **Many factors influence stakeholder support**

Stakeholder engagement is a cornerstone of equitable planning and underpins the balanced compromises that may be needed in negotiating ocean space



Recommendations

- **Well designed, co-ordinated stakeholder process** with engagement throughout is highly recommended. This should be informed by clear aims and objectives.
- Engagements should be **tailored** to meet stakeholder needs in an **adaptive** process. **Trans-disciplinary** research can inform future processes to achieve multiple benefits for all.
- **Coastal areas** need focused attention at multiple scales and will need a longer process to resolve coastal complexities.
- **Relationships** are critical to the difficult negotiations that will need to be facilitated in planning use of ocean space.

Thank you



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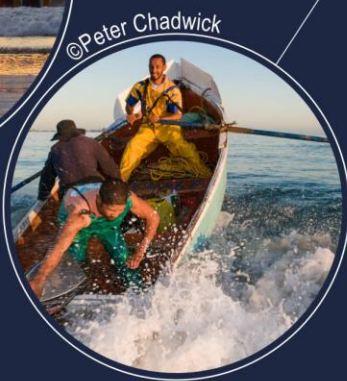
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