

SAMREF – South African Marine Research and Exploration Forum

The Offshore Oil and Gas Environmental Research Collaboration Project was a project to implement Operation Phakisa's Ocean Economy Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration Initiative B3: Exploiting the broader research opportunities presented by offshore oil and gas exploration. This was achieved through the establishment of the South African Marine Research and Exploration Forum (SAMREF) on 29 January 2016. Initially focused on the Oil and Gas industry, the scope of the forum has expanded to include other marine industries. The goals of SAMREF are to:

- Identify and take advantage of opportunities provided by various commercial marine industry activities and platforms, to gather important marine ecosystem data which would otherwise be difficult and expensive to obtain;
- Facilitate new collaborative offshore studies that would increase South Africa's state of knowledge of the offshore marine environment, related to renewable energy potential, marine biodiversity and ecology, climate change and ecosystem functioning;
- Act as a broker to support and facilitate the interactions between industry and science from simply highlighting potential areas of collaboration through to assisting with template agreements and data sharing.

Available on the website are:

- Project reports
- Stakeholder registration form
- Research requests database
- Research opportunities database
- List of companies with archived data

For further information, please contact samref@saeon.ac.za, or visit our website <http://samref.dirisa.org/>