

5. Scope of SAMREF activities

- 5.1. SAMREF activities will include the following:
- (a) Enhance cooperation between the public and private sectors through joint research projects and the exchange of information and data. SAMREF could identify and take advantage of opportunities provided by oil and gas exploration activities and platforms, to gather and/or increase access to important marine ecosystem data that would otherwise be difficult and expensive to obtain.
 - (b) 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, and would go some way towards mitigating the policy conflict between developing the oil and gas sector and the development of a low-carbon economy.
 - (c) Increase opportunities for publicly funded research institutions and individuals to gather data and information that would improve marine ecosystem knowledge, and therefore allow better-informed decisions to be made.
- 5.2. SAMREF and its secretariat are being established for the above purposes only. Neither SAMREF nor the secretariat will deal with requests for research funding, student bursaries, research infrastructure or access to any other research support intervention in place through the Department of Science and Technology, the National Research Foundation or the Department of Environmental Affairs. Any such requests will have to be submitted to the relevant programmes or institutions.

6. Principles for cooperation

- 6.1. SAMREF partners will act in good faith, foster cordial relations and adhere to agreed procedures.
- 6.2. Partners will make research opportunities known to other members whenever possible.
- 6.3. SAMREF members will not hinder any type of cooperation between other members, or between members and non-members.

7. Principles for data gathering and management

- 7.1. Organisations that cooperate for the purposes of data sharing or joint research should draw up an agreement between themselves to ensure that the commercial

interests and intellectual property of all organisations involved are protected to the satisfaction of all. This agreement does not have to be made available outside the partnership if it compromises commercial activity.

- 7.2. The policies of individual organisations governing the protection of commercial interests and intellectual property rights must be respected in any joint activity.
- 7.3. Organisation and association mandates must be acknowledged and respected, for example, the regulatory and custodial role of Petroleum Agency of South Africa (PASA) in respect of data from the oil and gas sector.
- 7.4. Any data cooperation brokered by SAMREF must have appropriate standardised acknowledgements for any output/product, and must be tracked in the record of partnership metadata established for SAMREF.
- 7.5. Data products of industry cooperation and the descriptions of these products may be kept private if this is necessary to protect commercial interests.
- 7.6. Industry data should be easy to locate, with the industry metadata established for SAMREF facilitating the location of such data.
- 7.7. Data access should be equitable, through open access to metadata and transparent procedures for application for access to data and information. This would be facilitated by the industry metadata established for SAMREF, which would include procedures for applications to be made, for example, to PASA in the case of oil and gas sector data.
- 7.8. Data generated with public funds should ultimately, wherever possible, be made openly and freely available.
- 7.9. Intellectual property generated with public funds should be managed in terms of the Intellectual Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act, 2008 (Act No. 52 of 2008).
- 7.10. Data access may be restricted, if this is justified. Restrictions may be placed on access to and use of publicly funded data and datasets for specified periods of time. Other restrictions may include specific protection in respect of national security, personal privacy, intellectual property, confidentiality, indigenous peoples' rights and the location of endangered species.
- 7.11. Metadata formats used by SAMREF should comply with Open Geospatial Consortium and International Organization for Standardization standards.

For further information visit
<http://samref.dirisa.org/>



Memorandum of Understanding

between the
Department of Science and Technology

and the
Offshore Petroleum Association of
South Africa

for the establishment of the
South African Marine Research and
Exploration Forum



The South African Marine Research and Exploration Forum (SAMREF) is hereby established as a partnership between the Department of Science and Technology and the Offshore Petroleum Association of South Africa, pursuant to an agreement reached as part of the Operation Phakisa for the Oceans Economy initiative of August 2014.

I. Background to the development of the Memorandum

- 1.1. Government's Operation Phakisa Oceans Economy engagements for marine infra-structure, offshore oil and gas exploration, aquaculture and marine protection services, and ocean governance took place from 8 July to 15 August 2014 in Durban.
- 1.2. The products of the six-week Operation Phakisa Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration Laboratory are contained in a report dated 14 August 2014. One of these products was Initiative B3 – "Exploiting the broader research opportunities presented by offshore oil and gas exploration".
- 1.3. At the time, the desired outcome for Initiative B3 was framed as follows:
By 2024, South Africa's knowledge of its marine living natural resources, marine environment and ocean-related renewable energy resources is greatly enhanced through collaborative research with private sector exploration activities.
- 1.4. Following the agreement reached between public and private sector delegates at Operation Phakisa's Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration Laboratory, a range of discussions and workshops have been held to formulate a practical approach to the implementation of initiative B3.
- 1.5. As a result of the above consultation, the parties that are signatories to this Memorandum have agreed to establish SAMREF as a multistakeholder forum that will assist in implementing Initiative B3. The daily operations of initiative B3 will be managed through the secretariat established within the National Research Foundation, which will report annually to SAMREF on its activities.
- 1.6. This Memorandum is intended to guide SAMREF's deliberations.

2. Aim and objective of SAMREF

- 2.1. The aim of SAMREF is to grow public sector research on the marine and ocean environment through opportunities provided by explorations undertaken by private sector extractive industries.
- 2.2. The objective of SAMREF is to oversee the implementation of Initiative B3 through the establishment of a brokerage service that will see partnerships established around such explorations, thereby enhancing cooperation between the public and private sectors, and improving the exchange of information and data on a voluntary basis.

3. Structure of SAMREF

- 3.1. SAMREF will include representatives of all stakeholders with a direct interest in the operations that are covered by the scope of the project. This includes individuals nominated to represent the following:
 - (a) National government (three representatives).
 - (b) State-owned enterprises (two representatives).
 - (c) Research institutions (two representatives).
 - (d) Oil and gas industry associations (two representatives).
 - (e) Other private sector associations (two representatives).
- 3.2. SAMREF is the highest-level, overarching structure of the Initiative B3 implementation, and will be supported by a steering committee with an executive function, as well as the secretariat that has been established within the National Research Foundation.
- 3.3. The Department of Science and Technology acts as the custodian of this initiative on behalf of government.

4. SAMREF process and actions

SAMREF will function as follows, or as guided by the Steering Committee:

