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THE PRESIDENCY

No. 138

11 February 2009

It is hereby notified that the President has assented to the following Act, which is hereby published for general information:—

No. 24 of 2008: National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008.



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Act No. 24, 2008 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: INTEGRATED
COASTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 2008

*(English text signed by the President.)
(Assented to 9 February 2009.)*

ACT

To establish a system of integrated coastal and estuarine management in the Republic, including norms, standards and policies, in order to promote the conservation of the coastal environment, and maintain the natural attributes of coastal landscapes and seascapes, and to ensure that development and the use of natural resources within the coastal zone is socially and economically justifiable and ecologically sustainable; to define rights and duties in relation to coastal areas; to determine the responsibilities of organs of state in relation to coastal areas; to prohibit incineration at sea; to control dumping at sea, pollution in the coastal zone, inappropriate development of the coastal environment and other adverse effects on the coastal environment; to give effect to South Africa's international obligations in relation to coastal matters; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS everyone has the constitutional right to have the environment, including the coastal environment, protected for the benefit of present and future generations:

AND WHEREAS integrated management of the coastal zone as a system is essential to achieve the constitutional commitment to improving the quality of life of all citizens, while protecting the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations:

AND WHEREAS the coastal zone is a unique part of the environment in which biophysical, economic, social and institutional considerations interconnect in a manner that requires a dedicated and integrated management approach:

AND WHEREAS much of the rich natural heritage of our coastal zone is being squandered by overuse, degradation and inappropriate management:

AND WHEREAS the economic, social and environmental benefits of the coastal zone have been distributed unfairly in the past:

AND WHEREAS the conservation and sustainable use of the coastal zone requires the establishment of an innovative legal and institutional framework that clearly defines the status of coastal land and waters and the respective roles of the public, the State and other users of the coastal zone and that facilitates a new co-operative and participatory approach to managing the coast:

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AND WHEREAS integrated coastal management should be an evolving process that learns from past experiences, that takes account of the functioning of the coastal zone as a whole and that seeks to co-ordinate and regulate the various human activities that take place in the coastal zone in order to achieve its conservation and sustainable use,

B E IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa,
as follows:—

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