

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVED IMPLEMENTATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MARINE LIVING RESOURCE LEGISLATION

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Research Design

South Africa has an extensive and diverse coastline stretching for 3650 km. The marine environment is being utilised for a variety of consumptive and non-consumptive marine activities that make significant contributions to the country's economy. In order to ensure sustainable use of such a valuable resource, the Marine Living Resources Act, as well as other relevant Acts, were enacted.

Since its promulgation, the South African Government has taken the necessary steps to ensure that the environmental legislation associated with marine living resources is amended to stay abreast of environmental trends and changes globally.

However, with increased pressure on the marine environment, many instances of poor policing, corruption and increased levels of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, South Africa is on the road to completely losing the valuable resources contained in the marine environment.

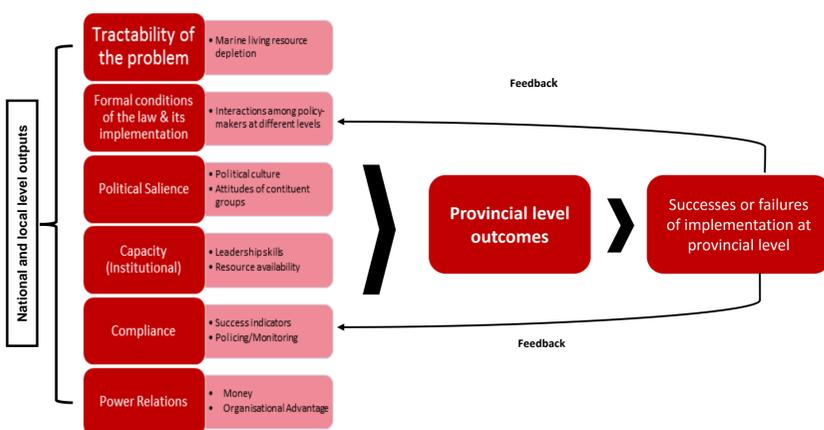
Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this study is two-fold; first to explain the factors influencing the failures in the implementation of marine living resource legislation in South Africa and second, to develop strategies that will improve future implementation efforts.

Research Design

Based on the objectives of this study a mixed methods approach was deemed most suitable. The qualitative approach constitutes a larger component of the study, supported by a smaller quantitative component. A comprehensive literature review and document analysis will be used to determine how marine living resource legislation should be implemented, while semi-structured key informant interviews, focus groups and observations will be used to compare implementation practices in the coastal provinces and to explain implementation failures.

Proposed Conceptual Framework



Provincial level outcomes are influenced by national and local level outputs and will in turn influence the successes or failures of implementation at the same level. National and local level outputs would relate to the tractability of the problem, the formal conditions of the law and its implementation, political salience, institutional capacity, compliance and power relations; each output variable having associated indicators. The successes and failures can be described as the degree to which observed implementation aligns with or deviates from the directives of the legislation. The implementation process will also result in feedback that will be transmitted back to specific outputs that influence the process.

Expected Outcomes

To develop strategies that can be presented to the South African government as recommendations for improved future implementation efforts.

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