

# ECOP SOUTH AFRICA

## 2025-2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### SUMMARY

#### OVERVIEW

27 February 2026 | Online via Zoom | Hosted by ECOP-SA

The ECOP SA AGM brought members together to reflect on 2025 activities, share plans for 2026, and connect with the growing early-career ocean professional community in South Africa.

#### ABOUT ECOP SA



- ECOP SA is a node of the broader global ECOP programme
- The ECOP programme falls under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
- ECOP SA's vision is to:
  - 1) build a community
  - 2) unite diverse stakeholders
  - 3) address challenges
  - 4) promote job opportunities
  - 5) facilitate knowledge transfer, mentoring and training

ECOP SA aims to be a network of cross-country collaboration for a more sustainable future.

#### 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- ECOP SA officially launched in May 2025
- Steering committee members elected
- Six portfolios with committee members on each
- Launched social media channels
- Launched email-based newsletter
- Presented at four events
- In January 2026: collaborated for clean-up events in Cape Town

2026 will bring so much more

#### STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on LinkedIn | Connect with us on Instagram |  
Join our Whatsapp group | Sign up for our newsletter |  
Stay in the loop on events and opportunities



ECOP SA thrives through the ideas, energy, and collaboration of its members.

#### ECOP SA MEMBERSHIP



- Data based on polls undertaken on the ECOP SA Whatsapp group (146 members), responses from members varied between 32 and 61 per question.
- Most members are **students** (undergrad to PhD) and early career professionals **aged 23 to 32**
- Members are predominantly **female** and based along the coastline of South Africa (with a large number of members in the **Western Cape**)
- The main fields of work include: marine biology/ecology, oceanography, fisheries & aquaculture and conservation.
- Common tasks include: research & data analysis, fieldwork & monitoring and science communication
- Common barriers to participation are **financial** constraints and **geographic** distance
- Many ECOP members are **pioneering** ocean careers in their families

#### 2026 GOALS (PER PORTFOLIO)



- **Fundraising:** identify and act on at least 2 funding and partnership opportunities
- **Newsletter, Outreach & Recruitment:** target 3 under-represented groups as members of ECOP SA; highlight at least 12 ECOP voices in newsletters
- **Training, Webinars & Workshops:** host one webinar per month from March 2026; host a monthly HYSPLIT training workshop
- **Ocean Literacies:** Host a PechaKucha event; recruit a new committee member
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:** roll out the existing Code of Conduct; select 2 toolkits and translate them into at least 2 local languages
- **Social Media & Communications:** partner with 3-4 creators or organisations; share ECOP community stories weekly.