

Fishing for facts

The South African Environmental Observation Network is a developing national research facility, funded by the Department of Science and Technology, which establishes and maintains environmental observatories, field stations and sites, called nodes, which will serve as research and education platforms for long-term studies of ecosystems.

The Egagasini node (meaning 'place of waves' in Zulu) will manage marine research and data on offshore marine systems, and is hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism's Marine and Coastal

Management (MCM) in Cape Town. Egagasini will work closely with MCM and was recently launched aboard the agency's 43.2-metre research vessel, the *RS Ellen Khuzwayo*, named after one of South Africa's most inspirational women. Khuzwayo was an anti-apartheid activist, a champion of women's rights and became a Member of Parliament in South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994.
Mary Duncan



***RS Ellen Khuzwayo* is equipped for environmental research to depths of 1 000 metres. It will be used for rock lobster, line fish, marine mammal and shark research, as well as for seabird observation.**