AFRICAN SUPERYACHT WORKING GROUP

The Beginning

From emerging opportunity to industry action

Progress Update • African Boating Conference 2026



What Defines A Superyacht?

As defined in the African Superyacht Action Plan

24m+

Professionally crewed vessel

Operating under international commercial yacht regulations

Generating high-value economic activity through maritime employment, port usage and tourism spend

INCLUDES BOTH PRIVATE AND CHARTER SUPERYACHTS

Source: African Superyacht Action Plan, May 2026 • Objectives and Scope, p. 9

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The economic power of a superyacht

A floating business with spending power that follows its cruising route

US$50m

Example vessel value

US$5m

Indicative annual operating budget

US$105k–330k

Illustrative local spend over 14 days

LOCAL ECONOMIC BENEFICIARIES

Fuel • Marinas • Marine trades & refit • Provisioning • Hospitality • Tourism

The opportunity is to build the infrastructure, skills and services that capture this expenditure.

Illustrative figures

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Yachts visiting Southern Africa are materially larger than the global fleet

60m
average length
in Southern Africa (2025)

1,075 GT
average gross tonnage
in Southern Africa (2025)

34.19m
global 24m+ fleet
average length

321 GT
global 24m+ fleet
average gross tonnage

The opportunity is not simply more yachts.

It is a higher-value visitor profile requiring the right infrastructure, services, regulation and destination coordination.

Scale signal
Average visiting yacht in Southern Africa: 60m and 1,075 GT.

Global benchmark
Current global fleet average: 34.19m and 321 GT.

Delivery implication
Coordinated readiness beats isolated promotion.

BOAT PRO

SOUTHERN AFRICA

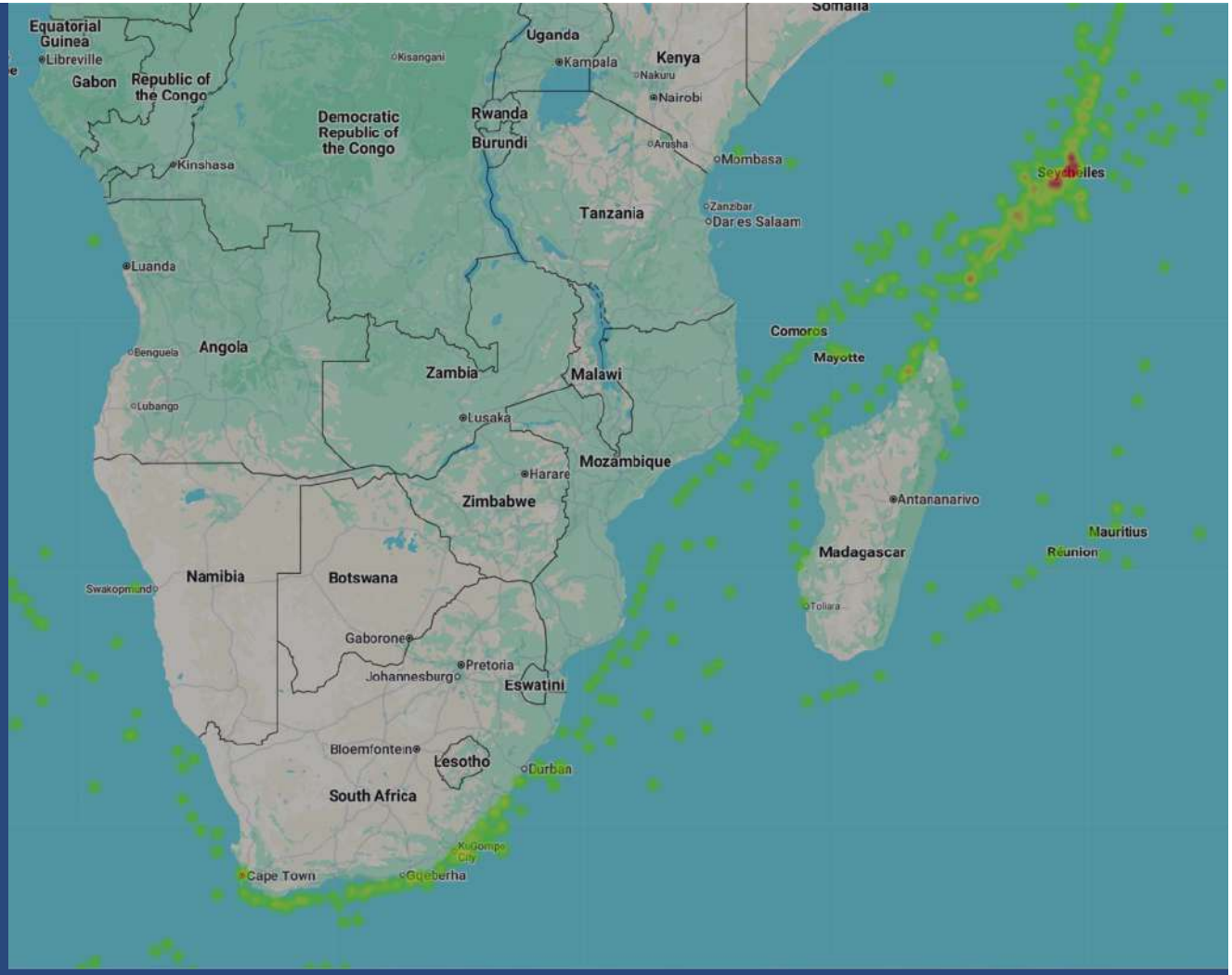
Total yacht visitors by year

Yacht Numbers 24m+	Year	Average Length Overall (Meters)
14	2019	52
17	2020	45
8	2021	47
11	2022	50
14	2023	43
36	2024	64
36	2025	60

REGIONAL

Superyacht Market 24m+

- This heatmap shows superyacht routes from Oct 25 – Sep 26
- The area between Cape Town and the east coast route is showing growth



Top South African visitor locations by Superyacht visitors Oct 25 – Sept 26

1. Cape Town
2. Durban
3. Hibiscus Coast



BOAT PRO

BOATPRO DATA

The market is regional — not confined to one destination

Oct 2025 – Sept 2026



BOATPro's route heatmap shows growth between Cape Town and the eastern coast route.

Destinations are stronger when connected through a credible Southern African and Indian Ocean cruising proposition.

Different strengths.
One connected regional proposition.

BOATPRO DATA

Current demand already points to where capability matters

Most visited countries

Seychelles leads the Maldives by just two yachts; South Africa ranks third among the countries shown.

Large-yacht profile

The Maldives records the largest average visiting yacht at 78m.

Regional capability

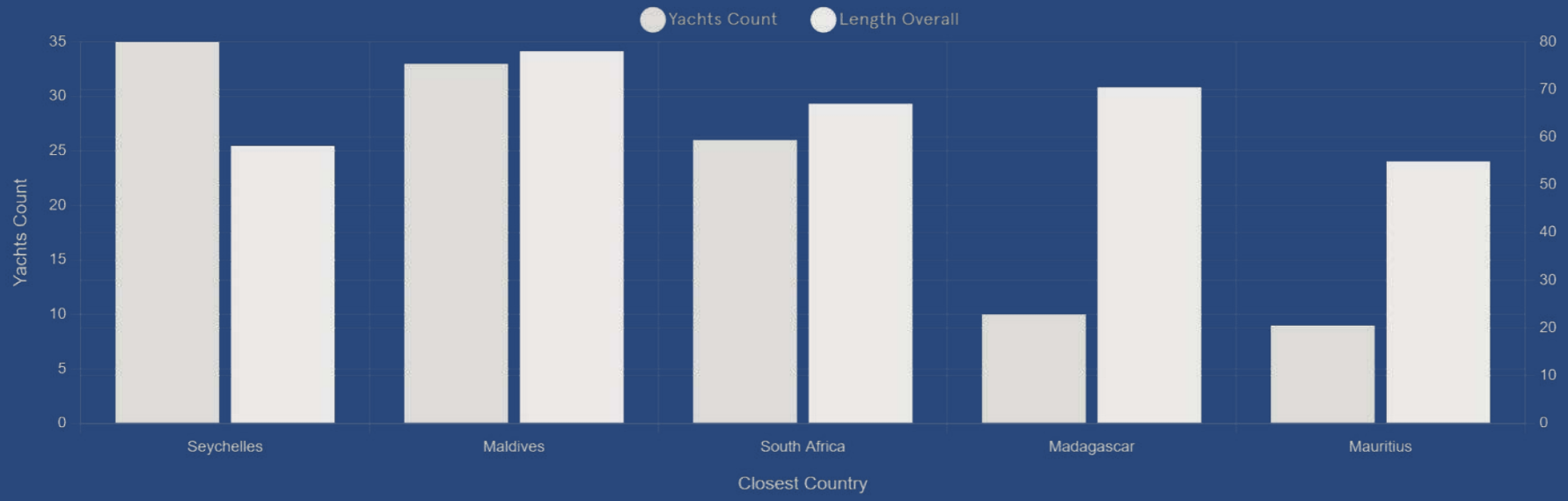
V&A Waterfront Marina, Cape Town, ranks among the region's top five marinas for 24m+ yacht visitors.

Top 5 Marinas

- V&A Waterfront Marina – Cape Town
- Eden Island Marina – Seychelles
- Crossroads – Maldives
- The Wharf Hotel & Marina – Seychelles
- The Caudan - Mauritius

BOAT PRO

Most visited countries and LOA of Yachts in the region between October 2025 to September 2026



- In the last 12 months the Seychelles have just (by 2 yachts!) taken the lead as most visited country in the region.
- The Maldives has the largest average yacht visitor at 78m

THE AFRICAN SUPERYACHT WORKING GROUP

Southern Africa. A shared superyacht opportunity.



VISION

To position Southern Africa as a leading global superyacht destination — offering seamless cruising, world-class marine and refit capability, and exceptional tourism experiences, supported by connected destinations and strong collaboration between government, ports, marinas and industry.

A connected Southern African network

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
- Infrastructure
- Refit
- Skills

COMMUNITY COOPERATION
- Shared knowledge
- Regional action

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
- Marine resources
- Responsible growth

PERCEPTION & AWARENESS
- Value
- Visibility
- Understanding

THE ACTION PLAN

One Southern African strategy. Five delivery streams.

01	**Governance & Research**	Evidence base, funding and structure
02	**Policy & Regulation**	Barriers to cruising, charter and refit
03	**Infrastructure & Investment**	Readiness, capability and priorities
04	**Marketing & Destination**	A unified Southern African cruising identity
05	**Skills & Training**	Developing skills and training to support Southern Africa's growing superyacht industry.

01 | GOVERNANCE & RESEARCH

Building the evidence base

ACHIEVED / PROGRESSED

- EIS framework and Terms of Reference complete
- Stratecon appointed
- Governance and membership model finalised
- Stakeholder survey ready

CURRENT FOCUS

Secure EIS funding

Launch stakeholder survey

Drive funding & membership

02 | POLICY & REGULATION

Turning barriers into a coordinated agenda

ACHIEVED / PROGRESSED

- Seychelles: superyacht incentive regulations progressing at ministerial level
- Madagascar: 15-day visa-free entry for crew and passengers in place
- South Africa: confirmed that SA seafarer medicals are accepted as equivalent to ENG1. Discussions underway with SAMSA regarding Seamans' Books
- OSASA registration platform tested for superyachts;
- ABS Maritime's clearance note (September) shows vessels over 500 GT fall under SOLAS/ISPS procedures, the main hurdle for an online portal
- Proposal for a separate superyacht registration platform raised with DOT

CURRENT FOCUS

Comparing regional frameworks

Coordinate advocacy

Consolidate policy recommendations

03 | INFRASTRUCTURE & INVESTMENT

Mapping Southern Africa's capability

ACHIEVED / PROGRESSED

- Regional mapping well underway
- V&A Quay 7 identified among key projects
- A proposed superyacht precinct has been earmarked for a 24-hectare site within the Port of Durban
- Marine and refit capability mapped
- Data being assembled to inform the EIS

CURRENT FOCUS

Complete regional submissions

Build one Southern African capability picture

Identify investment priorities

04 | MARKETING & DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT

One route. Many destinations.

ACHIEVED / PROGRESSED

- Southern African cruising route concept developed
- Regional itineraries progressing
- Route name established and Superyacht Africa website developed
- Explorer yachts and adventure owners identified as target segments
- Logo Designed

CURRENT FOCUS

Validate routes with regional stakeholders

Complete itineraries

Activate the promotional platform

NEXT QUARTER

Key priorities moving forward

CRITICAL

01 Secure EIS funding

02 Finalise governance support & grow membership

03 Follow the Action Plan to maintain coordinated approach

HIGH PRIORITY

Launch stakeholder survey

Validate and complete regional itineraries

Complete infrastructure mapping & itineraries

Consolidate policy recommendations

Drive funding model & establish admin support

SUPERYACHT AFRICA

From working group to association.

Help shape Southern Africa's superyacht future

www.superyachtafrica.org

SUPERYACHT AFRICA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Four ways to participate in the growth of the regional superyacht industry

REGIONAL PARTNER

R 40,000

For island groups, regional economic platforms and marina precincts.

VOTING RIGHTS **YES***

STRATEGIC CORPORATE

R 30,000

Larger businesses with a direct commercial interest in superyacht growth — agents, major refit and technical firms, marina operators, aviation and logistics partners, insurers.

VOTING RIGHTS **YES**

CORPORATE

R 15,000

Established companies seeking access, visibility and representation. The main business tier.

VOTING RIGHTS **NO**

SME / LOCAL BUSINESS

R 5,000

Smaller businesses, local suppliers, and emerging marine or tourism service providers.

VOTING RIGHTS **NO**

* Voting rights subject to the applicable membership terms.

AFRICAN SUPERYACHT WORKING GROUP

One year on

Africa’s superyacht strategy is taking shape.

