

## 7th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium, Mombasa, Kenya

### Seabird and marine IBA session summary

Mombasa, Kenya, 24-29 October 2011

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<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Seabirds in spatial conservation planning</b>
Date	27 <sup>th</sup> October 2011
Time	14:00

	<b>Chair</b>
Name	Ben Lascelles
Affiliation	BirdLife International

	<b>Rapporteurs</b>
Name	Riaz Aumeeruddy
Affiliation	Nature Seychelles

- Two of the four presentations “Conservation of coastal and marine waterbirds in Mayotte” and “New information about the Mascarene Petrel, a critically endangered seabird endemic from Reunion Island” were cancelled due to the absence of the presenters.
- Two extra presentations “The Albatross Task Force” by Bronwyn Maree and “Seabirds in the Indian Ocean” by Ben Lascelles were added to the session.
- Some of the major threats to seabirds identified: at sea: fisheries, pollution, offshore wind farms, oil platforms; and on land: light pollution, exploitation (eggs, chicks, adults), introduced predators, habitat loss due to coastal development
- Tracking of seabirds during non-breeding season, show seabirds congregate in the central Indian Ocean, with birds coming from the Seychelles moving east and staying north of the equator, while birds coming from the Mascarene (Mauritius and Reunion islands) also moving east but staying south of the equator. This area needs to be further investigated as this is the first time it has been shown to be important and the central part of the IO is not known a rich fishing ground which could attract the seabirds.
- There is an overlap of areas with high concentrations of seabirds and a high level of threat (mostly fisheries) which are the Seychelles area and the Mauritius and Reunion group.
- Very little of the ocean are protected in the western Indian Ocean, and those areas are mostly coastal (less than 1% of EEZs are protected). Areas that are good candidates for protection are: Seychelles, Mauritius/Reunion, area south of Madagascar, Europa and the central Indian Ocean east of the Chagos.
- The Global Seabird Program of BirdLife International and the Marine IBAs projects in the region will be useful in determining with better accuracy the areas that need protection.

## BirdLife Special Session on Marine Important Bird Areas

28 October 2011

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The special session was held to raise the profile of the marine IBA programme in the region, introduce the collaborative project with the Nairobi Convention and get input from experts from the region regarding seabird hotspots and how to identify them. The session included several presentations on marine IBAs in the Western Indian Ocean region:

- Introduction to marine IBAs and the marine IBA toolkit – Ben Lascelles
- Expanding the MPA system in the Seychelles: marine IBAs as a new tool – Riaz Ameeruddy
- Tracking seabird for potential MPAs in the West Indian Ocean – Sebastian Jaquemet
- Enhancing the protection of birds in the marine and coastal environment of the Nairobi Convention area – Ademola Ajagbe

This was followed by a discussion session. The discussion was based around a map of the WIOMSA region with seaward extensions around seabird breeding islands that qualify as IBAs included. The distances for these seaward extensions were taken from the following sources:

- a. The Wikispace<sup>1</sup> factsheets and foraging cumulative frequency curves
- b. Wikispace information on surrogate species if a. wasn't possible
- c. Precautionary radii (of species specific distances) around those for which a. and b. weren't possible

The suggested distances were evaluated and others proposed if it was felt to be necessary. Other relevant details regarding further IBAs to be identified were also discussed.

### ***Participants List***

Name	Affiliation
Sophia I. Masuka	Chumbe Island Coral Park/BL Tanzania
Dixon Waruinga	Nairobi Convention
Sebastian Jaquemet	University of Reunion
Nancy Soi	Nairobi Convention
John M. Wambura	Sokoine University of Agriculture/BL Tanzania
Bacar Dussem Mdallah	Groupe d'etude et de protection des oiseaux de Mayotte
Zeno Wijitten	Global Vision International
Nirmal Shah	Nature Seychelles
Aurelie Duhec	Island Conservation Society (Seychelles)
Riaz Auheeruddy	Nature Seychelles
Ademola Ajagbe	BL Africa Secretariat
Bronwyn Maree	BL South Africa
Christina Moseley	BL South Africa
Ben Lascelles	BL Cambridge secretariat
Tim Reid	University Cape Town

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<sup>1</sup> <http://seabird.wikispaces.com/>

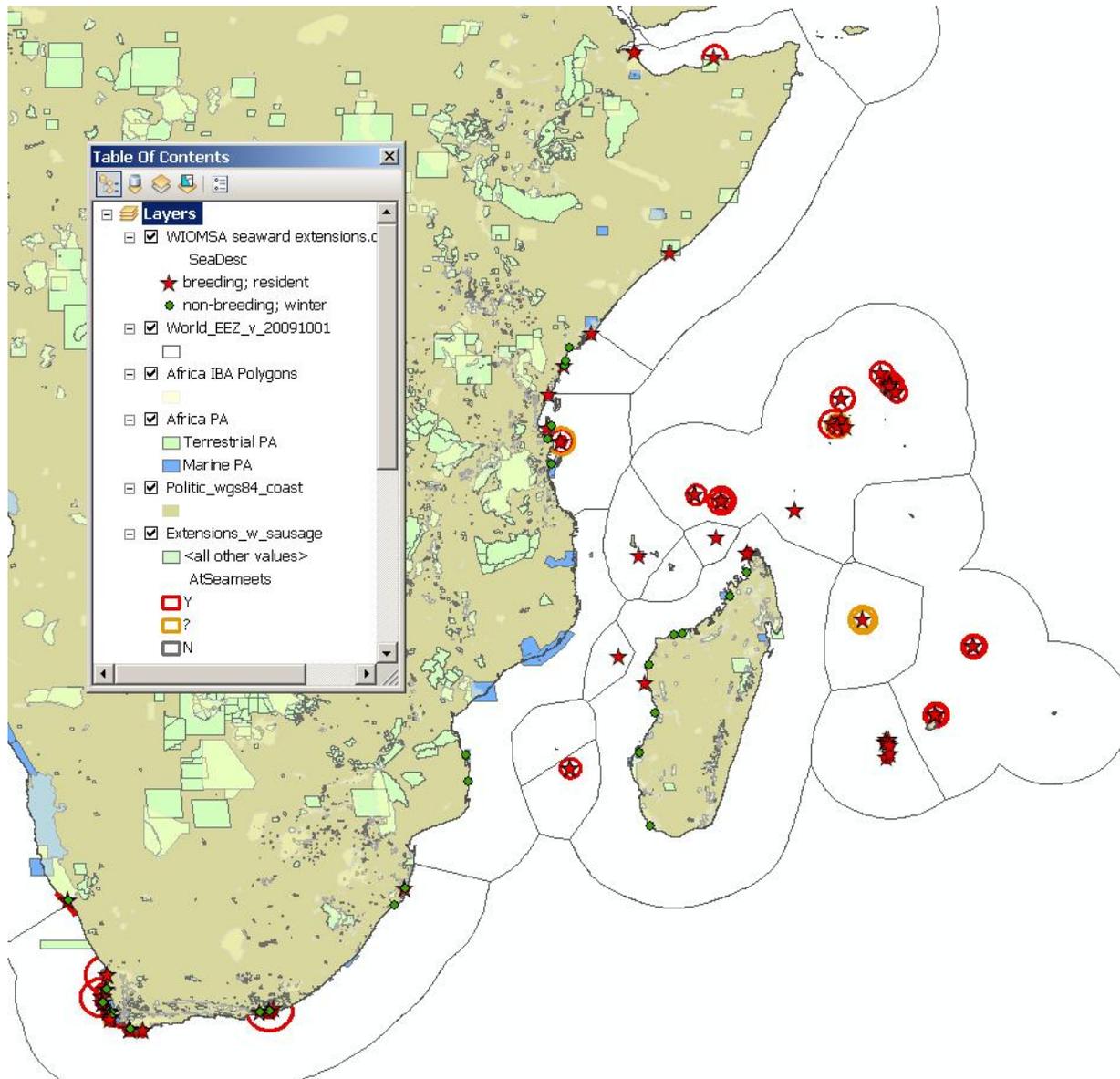
Table 1: Summary of the discussion regarding the suggested distances around seabird breeding colonies. The column “Additional sites”, refers to whether more sites in addition to the seaward extensions are needed to protect a sufficient portion of the population in their foraging habitat.

Species	Original (km)	Revised (km)	Additional sites	Comments
African Penguin	20	30	No	Penguins on south coast may travel further than on the west
Audubon’s Shearwater	7.5	10	Pelagic sites	
Bank Cormorant	15	15	No	Check on tracking data from Namibia
Barau's Petrel	25	25	Pelagic sites (marked on map)	
Black-naped Tern	3	3	No	Not sure but probably fine
Bridled Tern	15	?	Pelagic sites	They can forage far offshore off the Plateau
Brown Noddy	50	60	Pelagic sites	Estimated they can go up to 100km offshore
Cape Cormorant	15	15km offshore, 60km along coast	No	
Cape Gannet	100	need rectangular IBA	No	Tend to move parallel to the coast, tracking data will be more useful to define the area, areas used may change yearly due to changes in fish distribution
Caspian Tern	16	16	No	Fairly coastal
Common White Tern	10	possibly 10	Pelagic sites	SJ has a few at sea observations from cruises, need to see where the number of individuals seen rafting drops off suddenly
Crowned Cormorant	15	1km offshore, 15km along coast	No	Mainly forage in the kelp zone and move up and down coast
Damara Tern	1	1	No	unsure
Great Crested Tern	25	25	No	Max distance seen is 40-50km
Greater Frigatebird	1	Precautionary 1	Possibly in Mozambique Channel	Leave 1km precautionary distance for now but need to look at more data
Grey-headed Gull	1		n/a	Tends to be estuarine, not relevant for marine IBA but check with experts
Kelp Gull	10	10	Possibly	Large flocks feed around trawlers but are probably non-breeders, not a big conservation priority
King Gull	3	3	Not discussed	Look at silver gulls or other similar species
Lesser Crested Tern	25	25	No	Mix with Great Crested Terns
Lesser Frigatebird	1	Precautionary 1	Possibly in	Same as Greater frigatebird

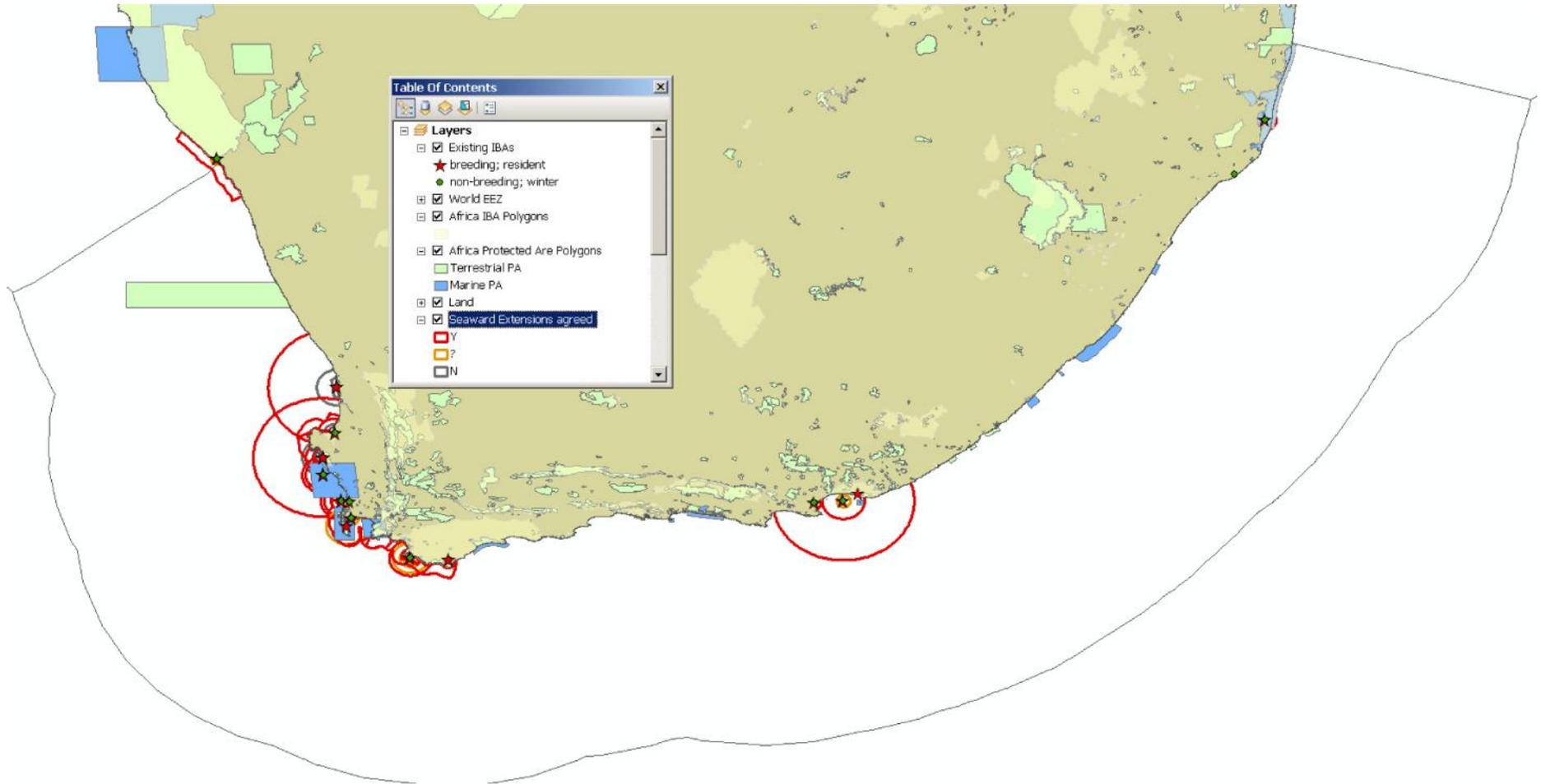
			Mozambique Channel	
Lesser Noddy	50	50	No	More coastal than Brown noddy
Mascarene Petrel	25	25	Pelagic sites	Seen some around Reunion, SJ has 2 isotope samples but these are different from others in the region so no idea where from but probably similar to Barau's
Masked Booby	50	70	No	Furthest foraging distance is 150km, paper in press Michelle Kappe
Red-footed Booby	70	50	No	Masked go further than Red-footed, return to colony every night
Red-tailed Tropicbird	1	precautionary 1km	n/a	Solitary at sea and travel long distances, probably too dispersed for site based conservation
Roseate Tern	10	10	No	
Trinidad Petrel	25	25	Pelagic sites	Similar to Barau's, tracking planned
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	15	25	Pelagic sites	
White-eyed gull	1	?	Unknown	Need more information
White-tailed Tropicbird	1	precautionary 1km	n/a	Similar to Red-tailed Tropicbird

**Other comments:**

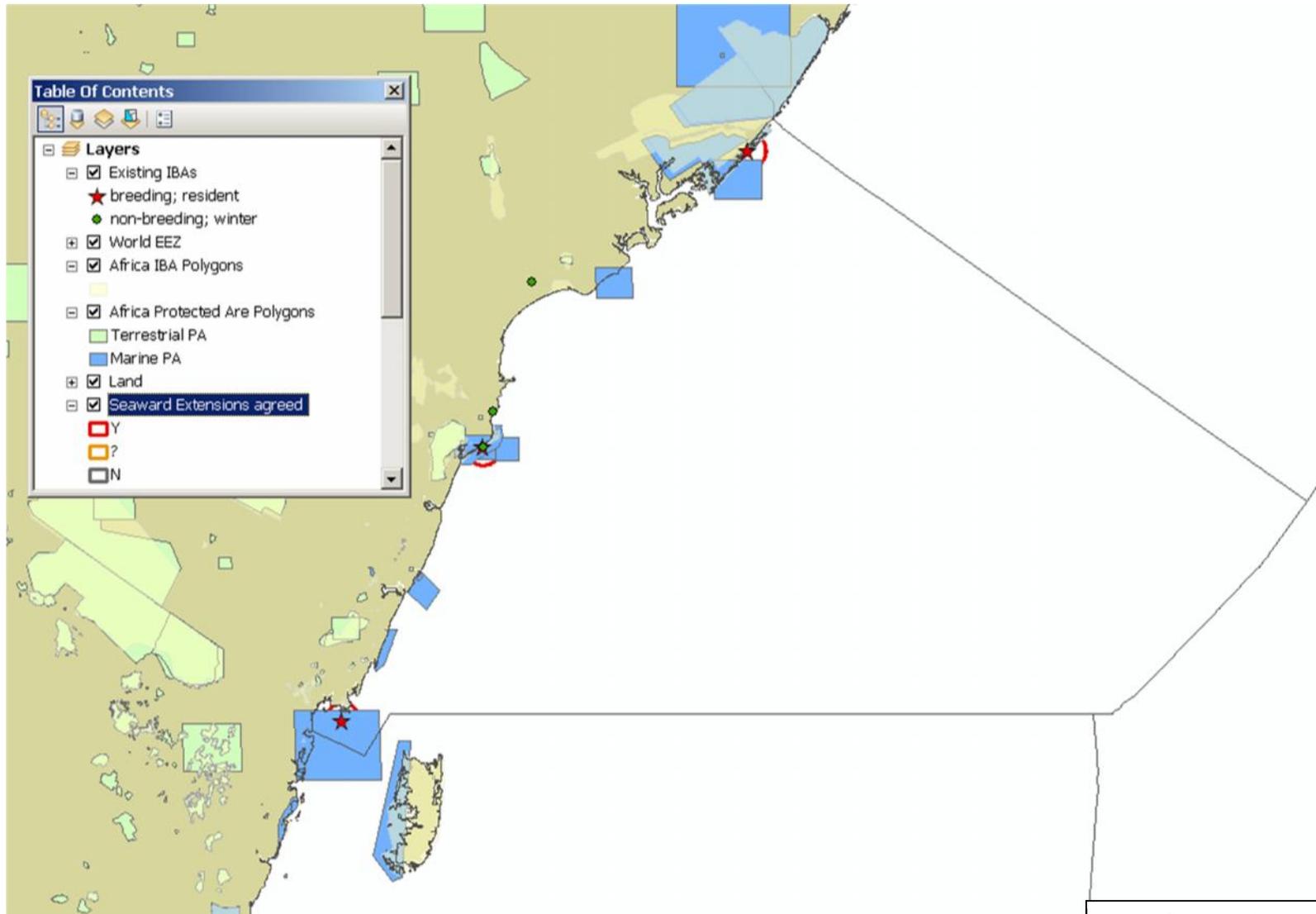
- Pelagic terns (i.e. bridled and sooty tern, and brown Noddy) need some further thought regarding distances
- Sébastien Jaquemet: Area south of Madagascar important for overwintering pelagic species (WCP, YNA)
- Not much known about Kenya/Tanzania coast- Mafia Island may be important for boobies (paper in SA Journal of Marine Science)
- Additional sites to consider (suggested by Sébastien Jaquemet and Riaz Aumeeruddy)
  - o Nosy Vé- Red-tailed Tropicbird
  - o North east coast of Madagascar- colonies of sooty terns (check size with Matthieu Le Corre)
  - o Rodrigues Island
  - o Cocos Island
- Additional species
  - o Sooty gull (in region?)



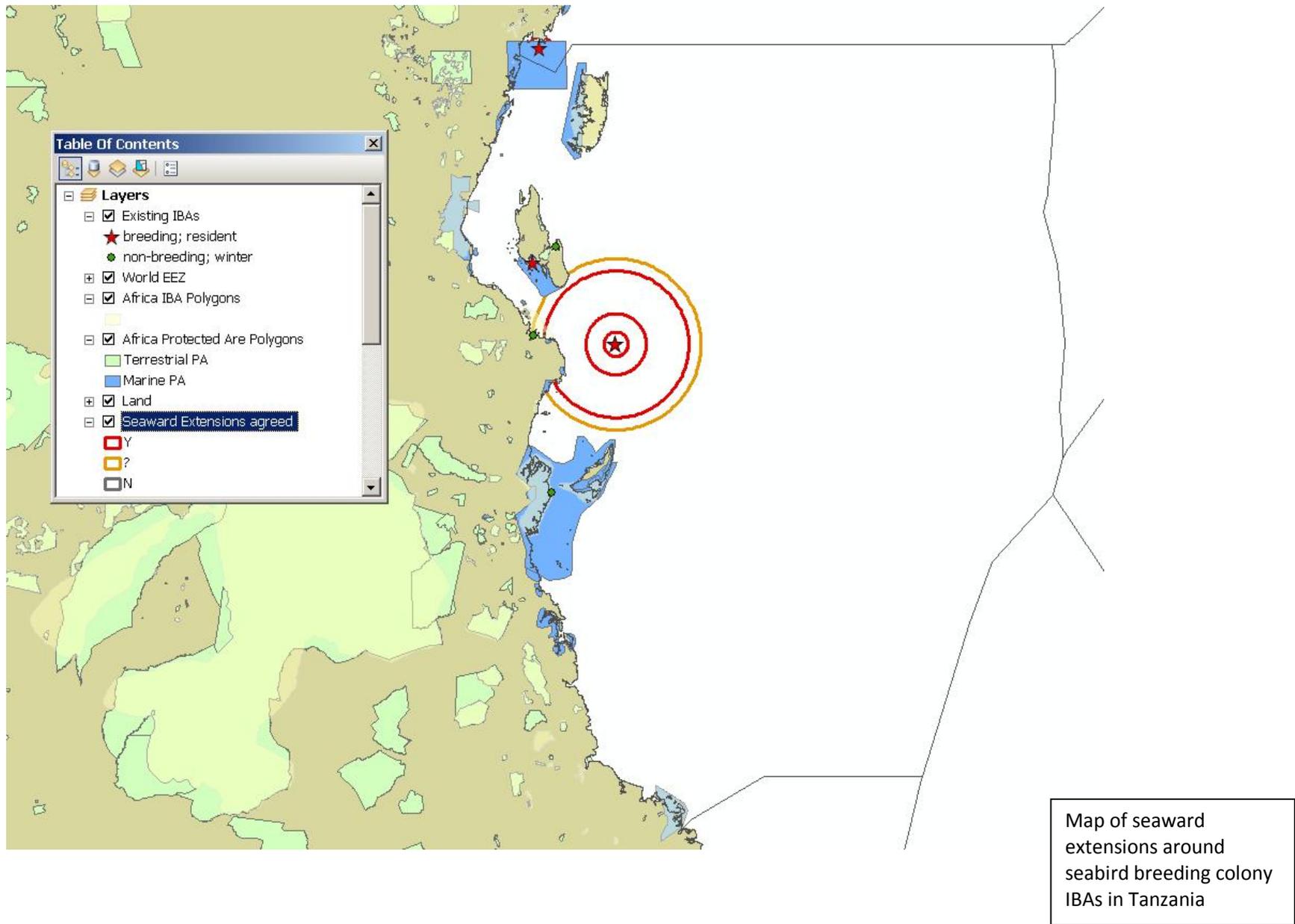
Map of WIOMSA countries with seaward extensions to seabird breeding colony IBAs using the distances outlined in table 1.

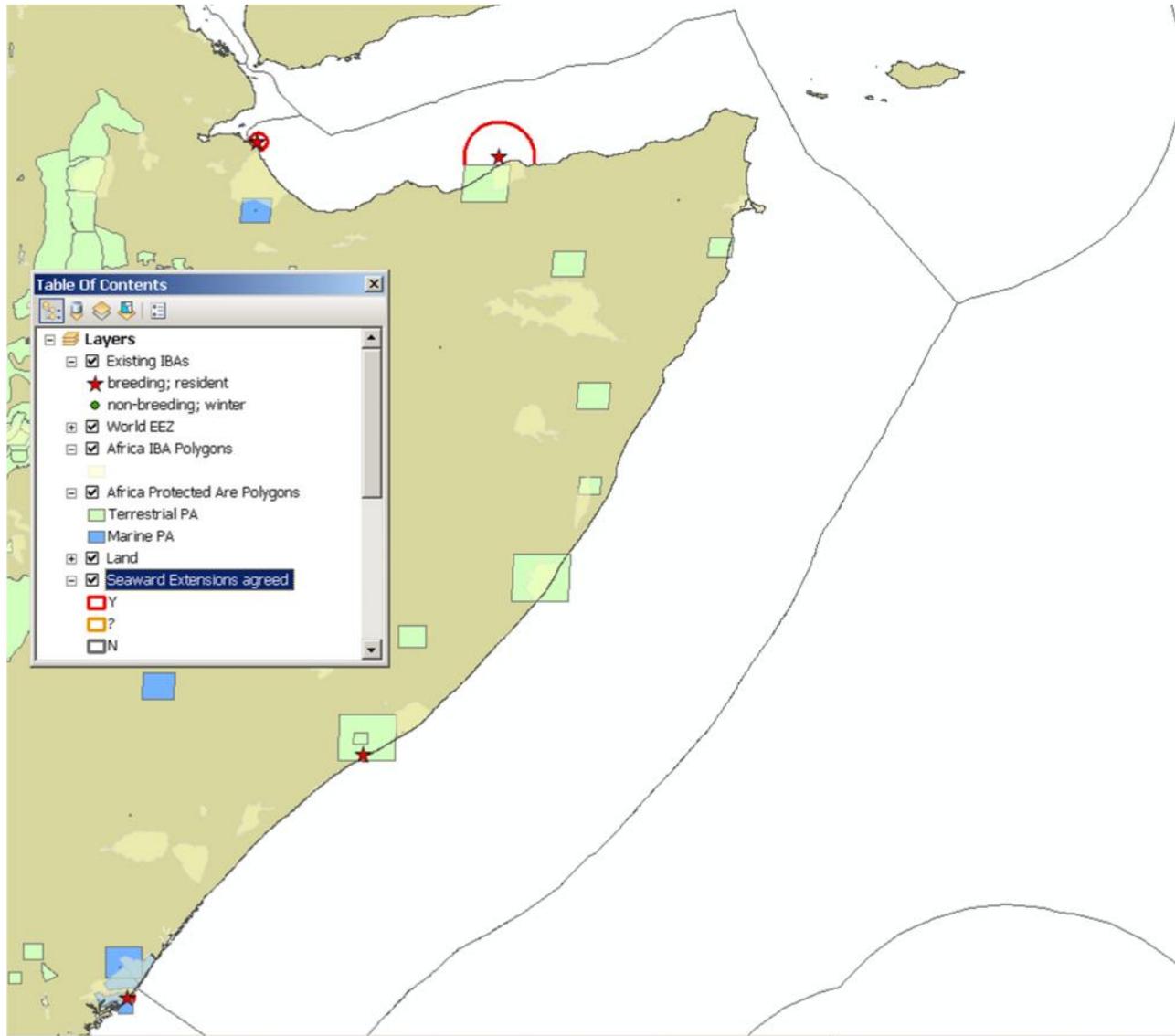


Map of seaward extensions around seabird breeding colony IBAs in South Africa

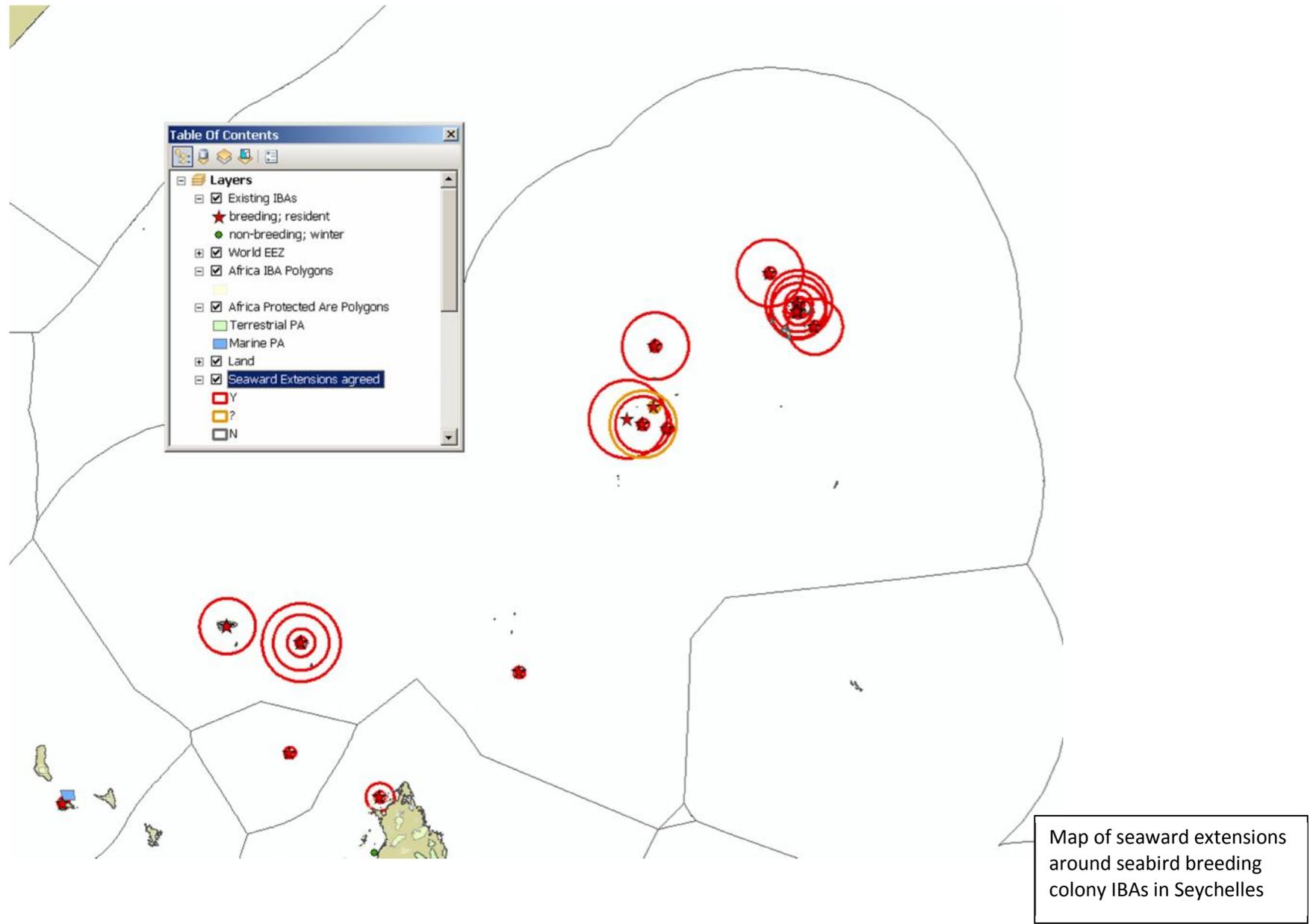


Map of seaward extensions around seabird breeding colony IBAs in Kenya

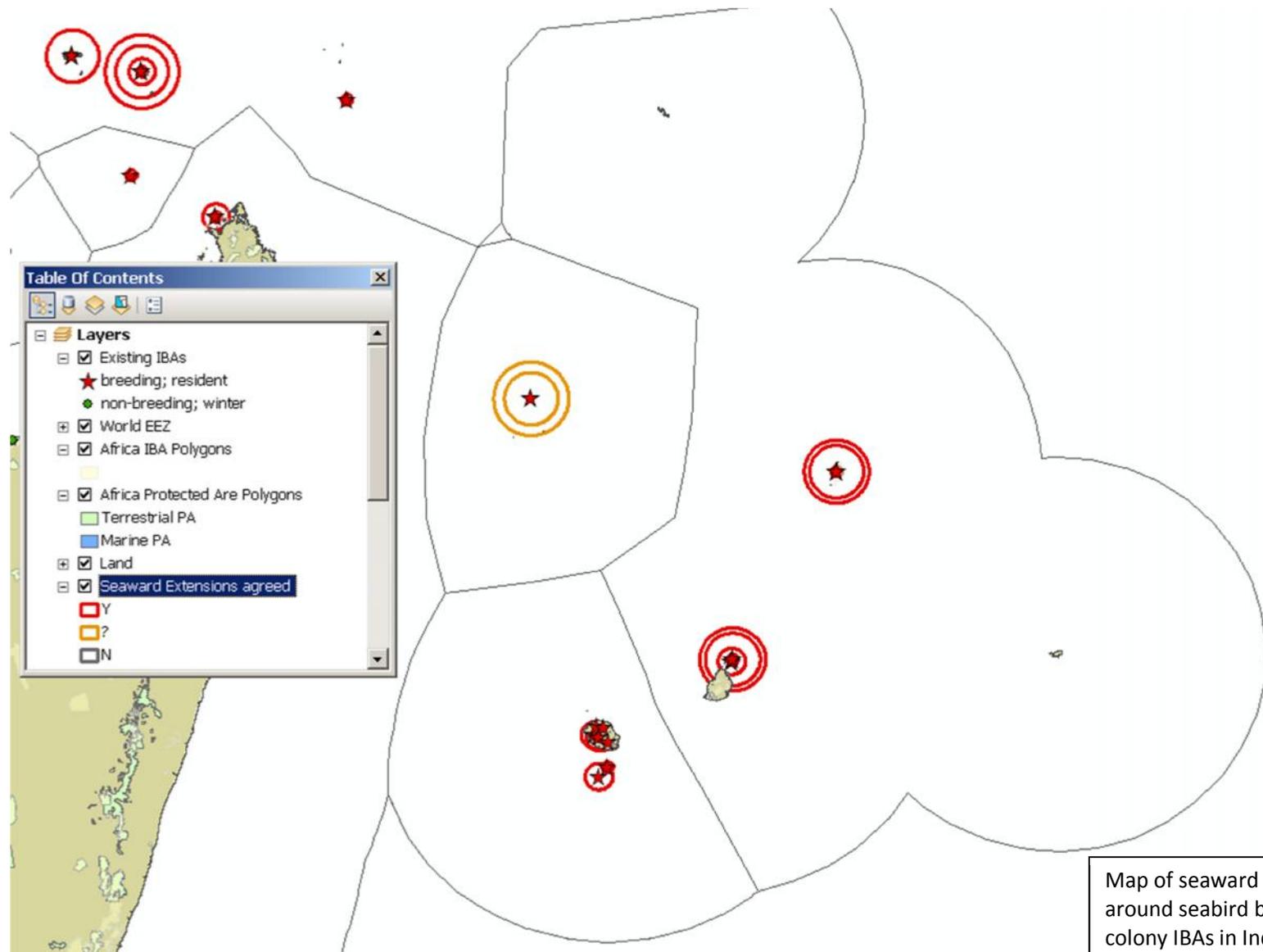




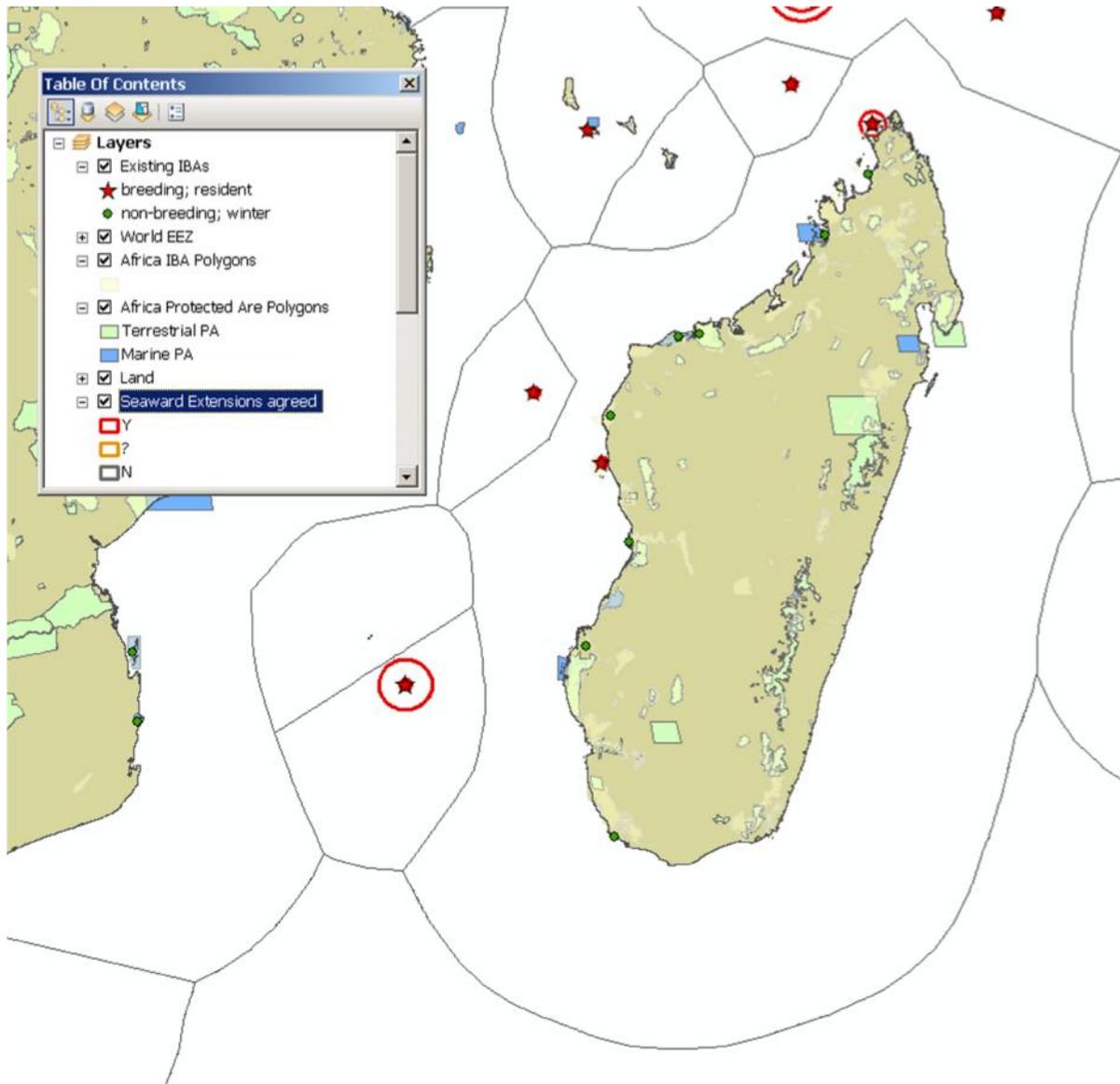
Map of seaward extensions around seabird breeding colony IBAs in Somalia



Map of seaward extensions around seabird breeding colony IBAs in Seychelles



Map of seaward extensions around seabird breeding colony IBAs in Indian Ocean Islands



Map of seaward extensions around seabird breeding colony IBAs in Madagascar and Mozambique Channel