This report provides the reader with an overview of research activities in the South African marine and coastal environment during the period 1995-1998. The report is being submitted to IAPSO (International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Ocean) in preparation for the IUGG General Assembly in 1999 and covers the years since the previous meeting (August 1995). The presentation is arranged in terms of the various marine research organizations in the country, to indicate the distribution of effort. The oceanographic activity in each organization is separated according to the focus areas of each institution. To achieve some consistency with the previous report to IOPSO, this account also contains two brief sections on South African vessels used in oceanographic research, and aspects of marine data management, respectively.