

# DLIST-Benguela

## Lessons learnt from a web supported community of practice



*International Knowledge Management (IKM)*



# Introduction



- **DLIST Benguela is an information sharing programme, comprising an online platform, distance learning courses and social networking programme.**
- **Focus on the coastal areas flanked by the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) along the west side of Southern Africa, which are in a rapid state of transition.**

# The Great Information Divide



# The regional background to DLIST-Benguela

## A region in rapid transition

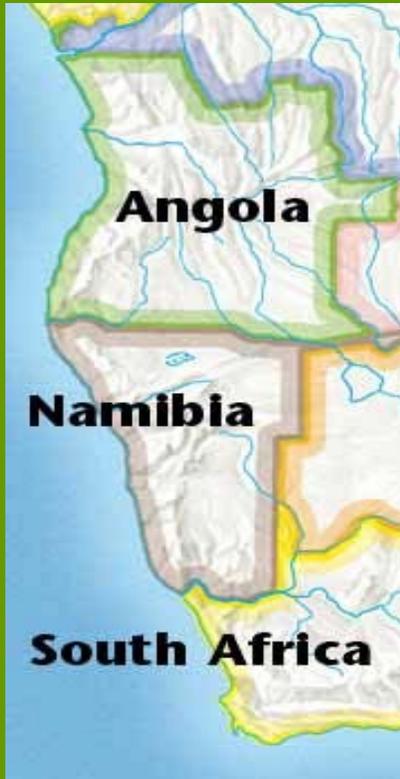
- The widening digital and knowledge divide – know nots closely correlated to the have nots
- Changes in land ownership, political dispensation and administrative systems and entities
- Dwindling diamond reserves, however access to over 90% of the coastline is restricted
- Grazing lands, living marine resources, biodiversity and water under increasing pressure
- Fragile, semi-dessert environment that is slow to recover
- Debilitating poverty is endemic and worsening



## Diverse regional initiatives addressing stakeholders

- BCLME/BCC
- NACOMA
- TFCA process
  
- Institutionalizing Integrated Development Planning
- Small Business Development
- Community Conservancies
- CB Tourism Development
- CBNRM
- World Heritage Site (WHS)
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Artisenal Fishing Collectives

# DLIST-Benguela Objectives



- Bridging the Information Divide through an accessible ICT application and user support programme.
- Promoting flow of information and improve networking between coastal role players
- Common pool of local knowledge is created
- Facilitates dissemination of the scientific outputs of the BCLME and BENEFIT programmes, as well as other projects such as NACOMA, to all civil stakeholders along the BCLME.

# Brief programme timeline

**1999**

First stirrings of DLIST as concept - Regional Strategic Action Plan is formulated and signed by South Africa, Namibia and Angola

**2002**

Launched as a global pilot of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through IW:Learn, DLIST was designed and implemented by EcoAfrica.

**2005**

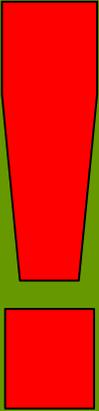
In late 2005, DLIST-Benguela was kicked off as a GEF MSP through UNDP Namibia, implemented by NGO International Knowledge Management.

During this time, we followed an iterative process of development based on lessons learnt

- from pilot phase
- and following ongoing input of our community of stakeholders
- driven by results of small pilots

What lessons do we have to share  
from the process





First lesson – information sharing/  
stakeholder participation gains from an  
integrated approach.

Our present “mix” of initiatives includes:

- IT Platform
- Distance learning
- Knowledge management
- Outreach/ awareness

# IT platform : [www.dlist.org](http://www.dlist.org)

Provides discussion forum, elibrary, content pages, contact page, member kiosks

- Discussion by email as well as web works well
- How could we organise around audience interests, rather than project structure? Think of content from users perspective, not project.
- Engagement did not result from “more technology” - simple (and free) is also good, e.g. DGroups, Google Groups

Our website is really an engine that generates content, discussion, leads - that are then taken developed in many ways.



**DISCUSSIONS**

**WHAT'S NEW ON DLIST?**



Stay informed and play your part in the sustainable development of our coastline.

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

**RECENT DISCUSSIONS**

**From:** Melusile Ndlovu:

**Re: What happened to the Knowledge?**

Having been following the discussion on indigenous knowledge and the interesting comments raised by the different contributors (DLISTers). We felt the need to put together all t...

**From:** Railli Hasheela:

**Linking ICT with poverty alleviation: How can DLIST contribute to poverty alleviation?**

The issue of poverty is commonly known to be a global problem. Consequently, many development programmes and initiatives have been developed to focus on poverty alleviation, bot...

**From:** Sven Coles:

**Re: Monopoly of Power Supply is**

**BURNING ISSUES**



**Indigenous Knowledge**

Discussions on DLIST have raised interesting questions around the use and loss of indigenous knowledge in the Benguela region and beyond. We decided to gather that information - in this Burning Issue you can read about indigenous knowledge, threats to indigenous knowledge systems, some interesting case studies of application of traditional knowledge, and what is being done to preserve it.

[\[ read more \]](#)

**ABOUT DLIST**

The Distance Learning and Information Sharing Tool [ DLIST - Benguela ] community focusses specifically on issues relevant to the coastal area from Cape Point to Nothem Angola - The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

Have a Question?

**EARTHNOTES FILM FESTIVAL**



This year sees the launch of Earthnotes, an environmental documentary film festival presented by DLIST.

[\[ read more \]](#)

**NEWSLETTER**



The DLIST newsletter contains a summary of the recent activities and talking points within the DLIST community. The October issue focuses on topics related to artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.

[\[ read more \]](#)

# Courses / Training

- Tertiary level subject modules - Environmental Engineering, ICZM, Cleaner production (as DL offerings)
- Shorter skills based courses
- Workshops often include training component

For our project, courses are a way of engaging key role players in meaningful way, while building capacity and networks

# Knowledge Management

Follows from baseline study – fed by ongoing information needs analysis, driven by users

- We collect information from different sources as it is generated into “information parcels” – Burning issues
- E-library helps Community of Practice store and reuse assets
- Mix of online/print and other channels

To build a common pool of shared knowledge was going to take some “farming”.



**DLIST**  
BENGUELA

# DISTANCE LEARNING & INFORMATION SHARING TOOL

DLIST-Benguela can be found at [www.dlist-benguela.org](http://www.dlist-benguela.org).

More than a website, DLIST-Benguela is a place where anyone interested in coastal development can meet, talk, exchange information, and learn.



**DLIST-BENGUELA ON THE GROUND:**

The DLIST-Benguela Community focuses on issues relevant to the coastal areas of Angola, Namibia and South Africa, flanked by the same Benguela Current Large

**DLIST BENGUELA**

**O QUE PODEMOS FAZER PARA MANTER A NOSSA COSTA LIMPA?**

A nossa costa é preciosa para todos — para quem vive perto do mar e depende dos recursos costeiros e marinhos para a sua subsistência, bem como para quem visita a praia nos seus tempos de lazer.

Mas o lixo proveniente do mar e da terra ameaça a saúde da costa e consequentemente a nossa costa limpa? Como podemos ajudar a manter a nossa costa limpa?

**ONE BEACH ONE PEOPLE ONE FUTURE KEEP IT CLEAN!**

**THE GROWING THREAT OF MARINE LITTER**

Marine litter: solid material, typically waste, that has found its way to the marine environment.

**Angolan students clean beaches near Luanda:**  
Schools in Buraco and Mabunda participated in beach cleaning activities, an initiative of the BCLME Programme. DLIST is helping disseminate the results on the website and through posters prepared by the students.

**Students and professionals learn about Sustainable Development in Coastal Areas:**  
People from South Africa Namibia and Tanzania he completed the distance c on DLIST that is coordinating the Cape Peninsula Uni of Technology (CPUT) in Africa.

**Namibian students participate in marine litter project:**  
Students in Walvis Bay engaged in marine litter surveys, workshops with key role players, and beach cleaning activities on the World Environment Day.

**Environmental NGOs in Angola try out the new DLIST portal:**  
The DLIST portal is now available in Portuguese, allowing for wider use and increasingly relevant content to Angolans.

**Courses from Namibian Universities will be available on DLIST:**  
The University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia are working towards adapting existing courses for distance learners.

**Lüderitz will have a DLIST node:**  
The Multipurpose Youth, Art and Culture Centre in Lüderitz (Namibia) will promote information sharing and provide DLIST users access to the portal.



**Explore DLIST: [www.dlist-b](http://www.dlist-b)**

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact the DLIST team at [info@dlist-benguela.org](mailto:info@dlist-benguela.org)

**ON THE GROUND...**

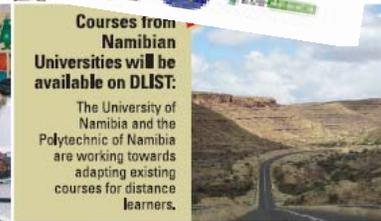
**DLIST provides space for open debate and information exchange:**  
The DLIST nodes in Port Nofoth and Eksteenfontein (South Africa) provide internet access to DLIST users. A growing number of people in this area and beyond have been posting their views and information.

**DLIST focal points in the region:**

It is known to be the cause of injuries and deaths of numerous marine animals and birds, either prey and sea turtles. Marine litter is an environmental, economic, cultural, health, and aesthetic problem.

Effluents used in fish factories, hazardous substances used in repair and maintenance of fishing vessels and other ships, and even people going about their daily lives - all contribute to this mounting crisis.

In partnership to address the problem of marine litter in Walvis Bay:



# Top ten downloads

Map: the Strandloper Guide to the Namaqualand Coast	92
Scope of work for country assistants FINAL.doc	52
The Richtersveld Community Conservancy eNewsletter - Feb 07	42
Poverty and Tourism	41
air quality act.pdf	40
biodiversity act.pdf	31
Tourism in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area	28
Population-Development-Environment in Namibia	26
Autumn Newsletter. Port Nolloth Heritage Trust	25
Port Nolloth Heritage Trust & Museum Newsletter: Sep06	25
DLIST Benguela Workshop Invitation Letter	25

# Outreach

- **Training, workshops**
- **Film festival**
- **Marine litter programme**
- **Nodes conduct activities independently**
- **Community radio**
- **Roadshow**

This helps to build the community of practice (users are involved), create awareness for our target issues, keeps our team in touch with reality.

# DLIST regional nodes



# Marine Litter Programme



**ONE BEACH  
ONE PEOPLE  
ONE FUTURE  
KEEP IT CLEAN!**

**THE GROWING  
THREAT OF  
MARINE LITTER**

Marine litter: solid material, typically waste, that has found its way to the marine environment.

It is known to be the cause of injuries and deaths of numerous marine animals and birds, either because they become entangled in it or they mistake it for prey and eat it. Marine litter is an environmental, economic, cultural, health, and aesthetic problem.

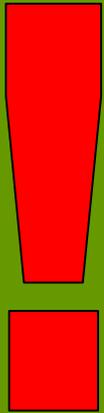
Effluents used in fish factories, hazardous substances used in repair and maintenance of fishing vessels and other ships, and even people going about their daily lives – all contribute to this mounting crisis.

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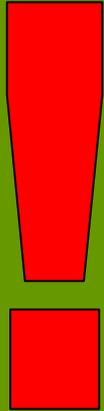
The integrated approach affords multiple points of contact. Together builds an enduring “community of practice” who become partners.

Our lessons - continued



# The interactive communication programme required active facilitation

- We worked with key (information sharing) partners in each region from as early as possible. Nurture relationships.
- Online discussion – active moderation, sometimes even going offline to bring key person in on discussion
- Aside – don't discount the “lurkers”
- Push media – newsletter points back to web and discussions and reaches people our web discussions don't.



The social capital built allowed us to distribute the communications process to members of the stakeholder community and extend our reach.

Examples:

- Film festival in a box
- 911 function

# Earthnotes

DLIST

Presented by DLIST  
The Distance Learning and Information Sharing Tool

## Environmental Documentaries



27 July  
- 8 August  
2007

at the Labia on Orange, Cape Town  
And soon to travel to other locations along the west coast of  
South Africa and Namibia.



For the full programme:  
DLIST-Benguela,  
[www.dlist-benguela.org](http://www.dlist-benguela.org)  
or the Labia – [www.labia.co.za](http://www.labia.co.za)

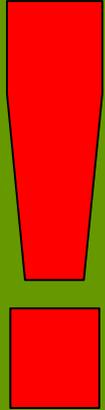
Featuring local and international eye-opening productions such as  
A World Without Water, Brian Woods 2006  
A Convenient Truth: Urban Solutions from Curitiba, Brazil, Giovanni Vaz Del Bello 2006  
Tracks, Corrie Francis 2003 USA (animation)  
and many others

For further information:  
Labia Cinema, 68 Orange Street Cape Town,  
Tel 021 424 5927  
Email [theatre@labia.co.za](mailto:theatre@labia.co.za)



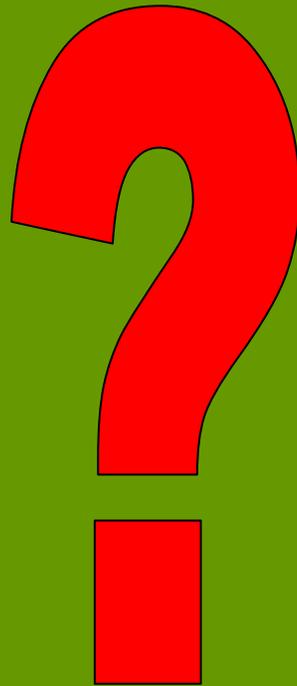
# What about web access?

- Barrier not always technical in first place
- “Infomediary”, package information
- Nodes
  - Integrate with MPRC, Library, provide broader service
  - Notice boards
- Mix of media very important
  - e.g. integration with radio



More is not always better: There is a delicate balance between reaching critical mass and user information overload

What key questions are we really interested in?



How to get richer communication through in two directions?

How to better maintain a community of practice between formal participatory sessions?

How to really “distribute” participatory process?