

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

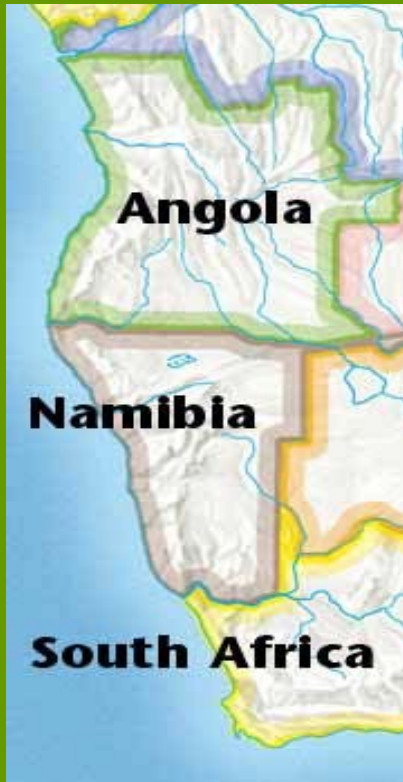
- The widening digital and knowledge divide – know nots closely correlated to the have nots
- Changes in land ownership, political dispensation and administrative systems and entities
- Dwindling diamond reserves, however access to over 90% of the coastline is restricted
- Grazing lands, living marine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

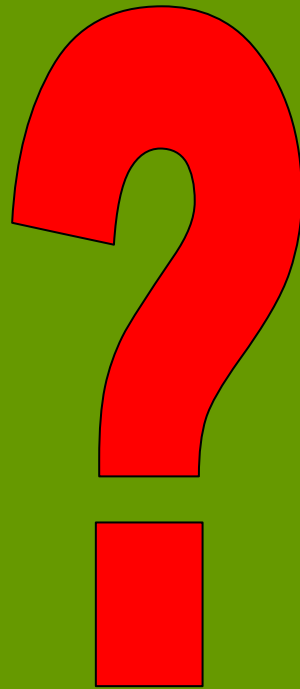
2005

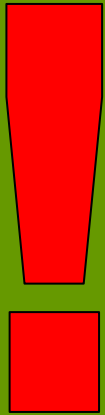
In late 2005, DLIST-Benguela was kicked off as a GEF MSP through UNDP Namibia, implemented by NGO International Knowledge Management.

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

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



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

WHAT'S NEW ON DLIST?

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 Nothern 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.

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



Explore DLIST: www.dlist-b

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact the DLIST team at info@dlist-benguela.org



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 limpeza. 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.

ON THE GROUND...

**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.

**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.

**Students and
professionals learn ab
Sustainable Developm
in Coastal Areas:**

People from South Africa Namibia and Tanzania h completed the distance c on DLIST that is coordina the Cape Peninsula Uni of Technology (CPUT) i Africa.

**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.

**DLIST provides space
for open debate and
information exchange:**

The DLIST nodes in Port Nolloth 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:**



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



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

Presented by DLIST
The Distance Learning and Information Sharing Tool

DLIST

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
or the Labia – 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



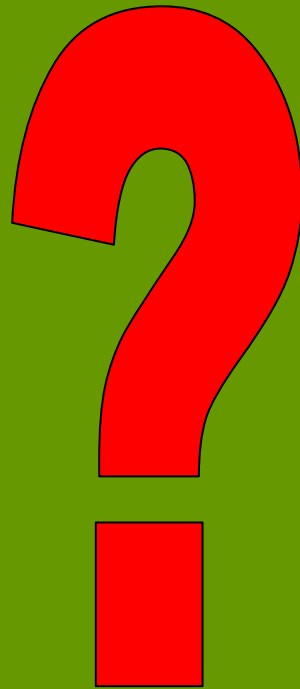
What about web access?

- 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?