



**DLIST** : distance learning & information sharing tool  
BENGUELA

## NEWSLETTER NO.1 - MARINE LITTER

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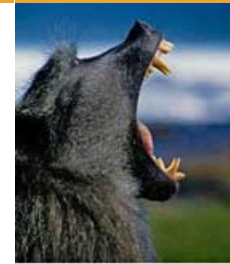
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" We are the first generation with tools to understand changes in the Earth's system caused by human activity, and the last with the opportunity to influence the course of many of the changes now rapidly under way"

Peter Vitousek, Stanford University 1997



Discussions

Welcome to the first edition of the DLIST-Benguela newsletter!

The newsletter presently goes to all registered DLIST users, as well as many people who may be new to the platform. If you are an old DLIST hand, you're likely to recognise some of the issues summarised here - we've all been discussing these over the last few months . If you've never heard of DLIST, you can [find out more here](#). We're pleased you are interested enough in the sustainable management of our coast to have read this far.

Best regards  
The DLIST-benguela Team  
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## MAIN FEATURE

### Marine Litter - Becoming part of the solution



Marine litter is a problem worldwide and our Benguela coastline is no exception. Litter has serious impacts on marine life and coastal communities. Yet marine litter is more than an environmental problem that needs to be addressed by

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action plans and legislations. It is also a cultural problem, thus calling for changes in behaviour. That was the goal of a recent pilot project aimed at showing schools and communities what the problem of marine litter is and how they can be part of the solution.

With funding from the BCLME Programme, schools in Walvis Bay (Namibia) and Buraco and Mabunda (near Luanda, Angola) participated in beach cleanups, poster competitions and school dramas. While these activities may seem like a drop in the ocean, their replication effect was by no means insignificant—they have already led to a wider programme in Walvis Bay, and will hopefully serve as examples for further action elsewhere.

[\[ find out more \]](#)

## FEATURED PARTNER

The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) Programme:



We have one common marine environment endowed with rich fish stocks that move across political borders, and faced with common environmental problems. Because the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME)

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functions as one large system ecologically interlinked, actions taken in one country will affect the other countries flanked by the same ecosystem. Should Angola, Namibia and South Africa not join hands to manage and protect our marine environment then?

It was to implement the idea of a regional management system that the BCLME Programme was developed and the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) formed. The BCC will strengthen regional cooperation on regulatory, institutional, decision-making and scientific aspects relating to the Benguela region. Its decisions and results will trickle down to the coastal populations, the fishers, diamond miners, tourist operators, and everybody that uses our rich coast.

[\[ find out more \]](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### The DLIST-CPUT Environmental Engineering course kicks off:

This year, the course on Environmental Engineering—Sustainable Development in Coastal Areas welcomes sixteen distance learners, fifteen of which hail from Namibia. Through the DLIST-Benguela portal, they will join the students at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) on this semester course that covers core environmental concepts with a focus on the coastal areas of South Africa and Namibia.

The course material, a dynamic pool of information and a forum for discussion are accessible on the DLIST portal to all students—as well as to anyone interested to learn and exchange views about coastal development. This year CPUT's Environmental Resource Centre (ERC) will provide additional support to contact students through the Library, and to distance learners through the online portal.

[\[ find out more \]](#)

### The Strandloper Guide to the Namaqua Coast

Strandlopers – Visitor's guide to the Namaqua coast" is a brochure that was born out of the need for an eco watchdog body for the Northern Cape's coastal areas. Widely distributed and publicised on the media, the brochure addresses the issue of ORVs (Off-Road Vehicles), litter, fireworks and others relating to the destruction of flora and fauna and the disruption of peace and quiet during the season time.

But more than a brochure, the Strandlopers came to mean the like minded "people" or carers of the coast. Its tentacles spread north and south. DLIST-Benguela can hopefully remain the vehicle for Strandlopers to keep up the momentum...so that when the next "season" arrives we will be at the ready!!

[\[ find out more \]](#)

### The new integrated coastal management bill in South Africa – towards effectively managing our coast.

A new piece of legislation in South Africa—the Integrated Coastal Management Bill—is about to replace the 1935 Sea Shore Act. But why should all of us care about this new Bill? The coast is a huge economic asset to the country. It provides coastal communities with an opportunity to improve their livelihoods and way of life, but it also attracts investment that can quickly lead to uncontrolled development. The new Bill attempts to promote integration, community participation and coordination of efforts for the protection and sustainable management of the coast.

There are various notable points that need to be made about the new Bill. Firstly, the Bill provides public access of the coast to all citizens, thus making it "coastal public property". Secondly, the Bill provides for a "coastal buffer zone" in which certain activities are prohibited in order to protect coastal ecosystems and communities. The new Bill also brings added responsibilities for municipalities, who must draw up coastal management plans. All in all, it is a much needed and long awaited piece of legislation.

[\[ find out more \]](#)

[\[ find out more \]](#)

## RECENT DISCUSSIONS

### Environmental ethics: quad biking in the dunes

A quad biking competition was recently proposed for the coastal dunes of Elands Bay in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. This cause some disbelief among coastal stakeholders and brought to the fore the age old debate of quick economic gain vs. environmental protection. For more details see:

[visit thread](#)

### The Topnaars and a sequence of misleading events

A news article from the Namibian posted to the DLIST-Benguela discussion forum evoked response from a local Topnaar community representative. The discussion is around a cleanup campaign along the Kuiseb River promoted by the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre (GTRC) and the community's participation.

[visit thread](#)

### A question of lobster

DLIST members discuss the complexities of lobster fishing, harvesting regulations, and ghost trapping, and community spin offs

[visit thread](#)

### Walvis Bay

Is that fishy smell that characterizes Walvis Bay a hindrance to visitors and the local community or is this part and parcel of what sets this unique town apart from the rest?

[visit thread](#)

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## NEW IN THE DOCUMENT LIBRARY

- Our Coast Our Future: A New Approach to Coastal Management in South Africa  
[see details](#)
- Ship-board abalone aquaculture project is a success  
[see details](#)
- The Richtersveld Community Conservancy eNewsletter - Feb 07  
[see details](#)
- Changes in Ecological and Socio-Economic Conditions in the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park Since Implementation of the Regulations for the Control of Vehicles in the Coastal Zone  
[see details](#)
- Policy for the Allocation and Management of Medium Term Small Scale Commercial Fishing Rights: 2006  
[see details](#)
- Planning and Managing Sustainable Off Road Routes: A Guide for Route Planners and Operators  
[see details](#)

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## LINKS



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[http://www.dlist-benguela.org/about\\_dlist](http://www.dlist-benguela.org/about_dlist)



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