

MARINE AWARENESS 2021

Umgeni Water has a vested interest in the conservation, protection and preservation of all aquatic ecosystems within the catchments that provide the organisation with raw water for purification. Streams and rivers within Umgeni Water catchments ultimately reach the oceans. Inland human activities like industrial and water pollution impacts negatively on our river systems and ultimately on the marine environment.

Umgeni Water works closely with all relevant stakeholders that include national and local government departments as well as non-profit and non-governmental organisations to create awareness to members of the community to understand the impact of human behaviour on natural resources from source to sea. Communities are encouraged to stop the pollution of our natural water resources to maintain good water quality. This in turn will ensure that we contribute to the curb in marine pollution thereby assisting the protection of the marine environment. The Water

Education team through ongoing collaboration with relevant partners conduct river and beach clean-ups with community members and schools at various locations within Umgeni Water's operational area.

You can make a difference by:

- Participating in river and coastal clean-ups. Encourage friends and family to also volunteer- we can all make a difference.
- Making an effort to reduce, reuse and recycle your waste. Waste generated from plastic products are major contributors to marine pollution that threaten marine life. Collection of waste plastic products can be income generating.
- Finding out about the practices of your beachside retreat. Before you stay in a hotel on the coast, ask staff what happens to their sewage and swimming pool water, and if they source their restaurant fish from sustainable sources.
- Keeping your beach visit clean. When visiting the beach, stay off fragile sand dunes, take your trash with you and don't disturb or remove plants, birds and wildlife so that others can enjoy these treasures too.
- Visiting Marine Protected areas like Aliwal Shoal in Umkomaas as well as other coastal ecosystems like the Beachwood Mangroves in Durban North and the rocky shores of Treasure Beach on the Bluff to learn understand about marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

When visiting the beach, remember to:

ONLY LEAVE YOUR FOOTPRINTS BEHIND!

Source:

<https://www.westerncape.gov.za/general-publication/protecting-our-marine-life>