

Improving quality of life and
enhancing sustainable economic
development.

Wetlands play a vital role in sustaining life for people, supporting biodiversity and maintaining healthy river catchments. It is important that people join hands to manage, conserve and restore wetlands to avoid the destruction, degradation and disappearance of wetlands.

Bearing this in mind, the 2022 campaign focuses on the call for action towards:

- **Valuing** wetlands for their benefits to human well-being and maintaining a healthy planet.
- **Managing** wetlands wisely and using them sustainably, whilst conserving and maintaining the health of the ecosystems.
- **Restoring** lost and degraded wetlands in order to revive biodiversity and ecosystems.

Types of wetlands

Wetlands include freshwater and marine coastal ecosystems like Coral Reefs, Mangroves, Marshes, Flood plains, Estuaries, Coastlines and Swamps.

Wetlands in Kwazulu Natal

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park found in Sodwana Bay, Northern Zululand, is one of the outstanding natural wetland and coastal sites of Africa. It includes a wide range of pristine marine, coastal, wetland, estuarine, and terrestrial environments. The wetlands are famous for their natural beauty and are unmodified by people. These include coral reefs, long sandy beaches, coastal dunes, lake systems, swamps, and extensive reed and papyrus areas. They provide critical habitat for a wide range of species from Africa's oceans, wetlands and savannahs. The wetland is a major source of livelihood and subsistence fishing for the local people.



Other wetlands in KwaZulu Natal include the Ndumo Game, Natal Drakensberg Park, Kosi Bay, Lake Sibaya which is the largest freshwater lake in South Africa, Ntsikeni Nature Reserve, the Turtle Beaches / Coral Reefs of Tongaland and the Umgeni Vlei Nature Reserve which is the source of the Umgeni River. EThekweni Municipality is home to the Beachwood Mangroves located along the Umgeni Estuary, the Reunion Park Mangroves located in Isipingo as well as the coral reefs at Aliwal Shoal, located on the south coast at Umkomaas.

Take Action

- Identify a local wetland, assess the state of the wetland and put a plan to manage, restore and rehabilitate the site.
- Engage community members in cleanups along wetlands, rivers and streams.
- Remove alien and invasive trees and plants along rivers, streams and wetlands. Replace these with indigenous species.
- Educate communities about the importance, value and benefits of wetlands by conducting information sharing workshops to encourage the protection and preservation of these sites.

Value Wetlands-Stop Draining Wetlands-Restore Wetlands-Love Wetlands

#ActForWetlands #ValueWetlands #StopDrainingWetlands #RestoreWetlands

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