

What is the CBMU?

The Coastal and Biodiversity Management Unit (CBMU) is one of the interventions of the KZN DAE&RD[#] to meet its legal international, national and provincial obligations as lead provincial agent in integrated coastal and environmental management. The Unit's activities and programmes support the Department's focus on sustainable growth and development – utilising environmental stability, integration and co-ordination as key vehicles in building a prosperous and sustainable community.

The Unit's key outputs are, amongst others:

- ⊗ To provide for policy, legislation and guideline development;
- ⊗ Providing specialist support and advice on coastal management issues, mitigation measures and coastal EIAs[#] to the DAE&RD;
- ⊗ Managing KZN's Provincial Coastal Committee (PCC) and supporting District Coastal Working Groups;
- ⊗ Co-ordinating and managing the effective implementation of the National Environmental Management Act's 'Control of Vehicles in the Coastal Zone Regulations' in KZN;
- ⊗ To provide management, strategic and specialist support for the implementation of integrated coastal pollution programmes; and
- ⊗ To provide strategic support to biodiversity and special management area programmes in KZN, managed by other sectors of the DAE&RD as well as by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

To get in touch with the CBMU, you can contact
Mr Alfred Matsheke: alfred.matsheke@kzndae.gov.za or
Mr Omar Parak: omar.parak@kzndae.gov.za

Terms & Abbreviations



- ⊗ **CBMU:** Coastal and Biodiversity Management Unit
- ⊗ **DAE&RD:** Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development
- ⊗ **DDT:** Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethan - a colourless organic crystalline compound
- ⊗ **EIA:** Environmental Impact Assessment
- ⊗ **ICMA:** Integrated Coastal Management Act, 24 of 2008. Gazetted February 2009, due to be enforced in the last quarter of 2009.
- ⊗ **ORI:** Oceanographic Research Institute
- ⊗ **PCBs:** Polychlorinated biphenyls - toxic industrial chemical compound known to have adverse health effects
- ⊗ **PCC:** Provincial Coastal Committee
- ⊗ **Viewshed:** an area visible from a vantage point. Includes natural features of interest and excludes visual intrusions such as buildings.
- ⊗ **WESSA:** Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa

Did you know?

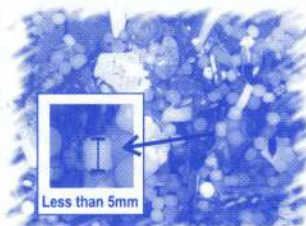
Plastics and Microplastics

You may have heard the statistics that thousands of sea birds, marine mammals, turtles and countless fish are killed each year as a result of entanglement or ingestion of large plastic debris – but what about the much smaller, less visible bits of plastic?

There is growing concern about the widespread accumulation of plastic fragments smaller than five millimetres (microplastics) in our oceans. It has been shown that these tiny bits of plastic can adsorb highly toxic pollutants, such as DDT[#] pesticides and PCBs[#]. Moreover, microplastics are small and numerous enough for the oceans' smallest organisms, from zooplankton to filter feeders, like clams and mussels, to dine on. It then stands to reason that the highly concentrated chemicals associated with each particle could potentially accumulate up the food chain.

So where do microplastics come from?

Microplastics are derived from all kinds and sources of plastics and these end up in the ocean and are continually broken down into smaller pieces, eventually ending up as nano-particles. One important source can be found in your daily skin cleanser! Microplastics, identified as the ingredient polyethylene (often called "micro-beads" or "micro exfoliates"), are used in facial cleansers as an exfoliating material – popular with a large number of people. Once used, microplastics travel through waste water systems and are not captured in treatment processes because of their small size, eventually ending up in our oceans. Too little is known about the effects of microplastics on the ocean, marine life and us! So let's take steps, starting in our own homes, to reduce our contribution to plastic waste in the ocean!



Less than 5mm

Photo: Surfers against Sewage

~ Bronwyn Palmer & Fiona MacKay (ORI)
bpalmer@ori.org.za



KZN Agriculture, Environment & Rural Development
umNyango: ezoLimo, ezeMvelo nokuTuthukiswa
kweMiphakathi yaseMakhaya
ISIFUNDAZWE SAKWAZULU-NATALI



Photo: NOAA Marine Debris Program



Ulwandle, meaning "sea" in Zulu, is produced by the KwaZulu-Natal CBMU in association with ORI



The long awaited ICMA is here...

The Integrated Coastal Management Act (ICMA)[#] has been on the cards for several years - following on from the White Paper for Sustainable Coastal Development which was approved by Cabinet in 2000. This acclaimed Act was developed in response to the need for better management, conservation and sustainable development of our coastal environment. The ICMA outlines legal and institutional frameworks that will integrate coastal and estuarine management. It defines the respective roles and responsibilities of the national, provincial and local spheres of government and of you, the public.

The ICMA entrenches equitable access for all people to the opportunities and benefits that can be derived from the coast by creating a special *coastal public property domain*. Municipalities are responsible (within their available resources) for enhancing people's use of these public domains by means of providing amenities, such as ablution and parking facilities.

Key to the ICMA is that it allows municipalities to determine set-back lines below which development is not allowed. This protects valuable infrastructure, preserves ecological functioning and enhances aesthetic views. In line with this, any structure within the coastal zone that has, or is likely to have, an adverse effect on the coastal environment will require rehabilitation or removal. Non-compliance with the ICMA may result in penalties or community service. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the ICMA and protection of our beautiful KZN coastline, we need all stakeholders to work together.

~ Bronwyn Palmer (ORI)
bpalmer@ori.org.za



Photo: B. Palmer

See useful terms and abbreviations

A Place You should Visit!

The Ohlanga Lagoon

Less than 20 km from Durban, as you head north from Umhlanga Rocks, you are greeted with a wonderful coastal viewshed[#] reminiscent of an era before man. Ahead is the Ohlanga estuary and lagoon, backed by coastal forest, sandy beaches with a few mussel-clad rocky outcrops. To the left is the spectacular Hawaan, with its rich coastal forest, fascinating species and a marvellous diversity of coastal birds and other wildlife. The Ohlanga River is named from the Zulu word uHlanga meaning reeds, evidenced by the reed-edged lagoon.



Photo: F. MacKay



Photo: F. MacKay

The adjoining coastal forest has a fascinating history. It was here that the famous poet Roy Campbell spent much of his time, writing amongst others his famous books *Mamba's Precipice* and *Light on a Dark Horse*, both books drawing liberally on the magic of the natural history of the Ohlanga River and its people, half a century ago. The steep slope of the lagoon's north bank contains a strandloper midden - in the form of kitchen remnants of an early coastal community. The Hawaan is no less legendary. Enormous efforts were made by a handful of conservationists to fend off insensitive development. Inter alia, this included initiatives that avoided irreparable damage to this climax forest threatened by the laying of a large sewage line which instead, was tunnelled with remote controlled equipment deep under the precious Hawaan forest.

~ Rudy van der Elst (ORI)

From Berg to Beach & Beyond

"From Berg to Beach and Beyond" is a new initiative, proposed by the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) and its coastal programme: Coastwatch. It is proposed that an Action Plan for KZN will be developed to manage the impacts from land-based activities on the marine environment and thereby strengthen the implementation of the ICMA and Waste Management Act respectively.

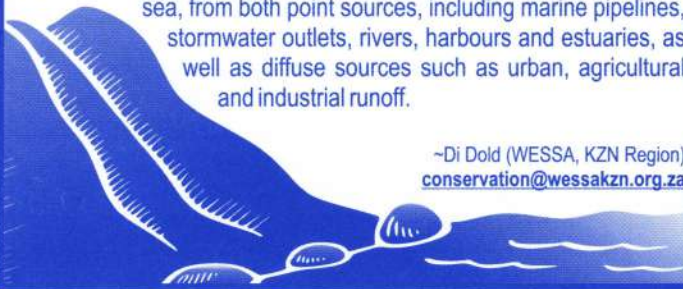


Why is this important?

With around one billion people living in coastal urban centres, the health, well-being and, in some cases, the very survival of coastal populations depends upon the viability and vigour of coastal systems such as estuaries and wetlands. The fact that our coasts are threatened by development-related activities with intense pressure brought to bear on coastal ecosystems requires serious commitment and preventive action at all levels: local, national, regional and global.

Locally, the impacts have already been detected as a result of the physical alteration of the coastal zone as well as from the discharges to sea, from both point sources, including marine pipelines, stormwater outlets, rivers, harbours and estuaries, as well as diffuse sources such as urban, agricultural and industrial runoff.

~Di Dold (WESSA, KZN Region)
conservation@wessakzn.org.za



Durban Beachfront Upgrade

Work has commenced on the R230 million upgrade of the Durban beachfront in time for the upcoming 2010 FIFA World Cup. The iconic Revell Fox-designed beachfront has served Durban's citizens well but is now over 20 years old and has changed little over the years. A new promenade will breathe fresh life into Durban's Golden Mile, together with additional amenities, new attractions and a cleaner, smarter, safer beachfront. While these changes may result in some disruption to existing activities we believe that it will be worth the modest inconvenience once completed.



Photo: O. Parak

~ Andrew Mather
(eThekweni Municipality)
mathera@durban.gov.za

Blue Flag News!



Opportunities presented by the upcoming 2010 FIFA World Cup have certainly spurred on many municipalities to introduce more beaches into the Blue Flag programme.



Although the deadline for applications was the end of June 2009, it is likely that the Blue Flag programme will experience significant growth for the upcoming 2009-10 season. Many municipalities will implement an additional one-month Blue Flag season when our 2010 visitors are here. Even though it will be the middle of winter, these Blue Flag beaches will have lifeguards, cleaners, security, and water quality monitoring in place to offer our visitors excellent beaches during their stay.

At the annual Blue Flag workshop, held recently in Plettenberg Bay, municipalities discussed the implications of the new ICM legislation as well as risk issues relating to lifesaving. It was quite sobering for the group to visit Lookout Beach, previously a Blue Flag beach which nature had taken back through floods and high seas, removing not only the beach but also the entire infrastructure of ablutions, pathways, etc.

~Alison Kelly (Blue Flag)
alisonk@wessa.co.za



Photo: A. Kelly

Blue Flag Workshop in Plett!

See useful terms and abbreviation