

THEME 9 COASTAL AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In order to address the sustainable management of coastal regions and their resources, the Provincial Coastal Management Programme (PCMP, 2016) identified 9 key priority areas that need to be addressed. Priority 8 speaks to “Strengthening awareness, education and training to build capacity with the goal of ensuring that the general public and decision-makers are capacitated to collectively take responsibility for managing and protecting the coastal environment”. Priority Area 8 also outlines the need to develop capacity, facilitate cooperation and engage in educational and awareness programmes to ensure an effective and coordinated cooperative governance approach.



DRIVERS

As coastal areas experience increased pressure due to increased development and population growth in these areas, the need to raise awareness regarding coastal environments becomes more important. Education and awareness leads to a greater possibility of ensuring that coastal environments are better managed and protected.

PRESSURES

The severity of pressures and resulting impacts can be in part attributed to the lack of awareness and knowledge amongst coastal resource users and coastal stakeholders in general. Pressures such as overexploitation of marine and estuarine species, especially fish, may be alleviated to some degree by educating and empowering coastal stakeholders and communities

STATE

A number of environmental education (EE) programmes are currently active in the Province. Examples of coastal programmes that are implemented in partnership with government and non-profit organisations (NGOs) include:

- Working for the Coast Programme;
- Annual events (International Coastal Clean-up and Marine Week); and
- Blue Flag Programme.

The DEA&DP continued to implement a number of awareness campaigns throughout the entire Western Cape during 2017 - The DEA&DP focussed on Marine Week by bringing marine life and education to underprivileged learners in the three District Municipalities. The DEA&DP also facilitated coastal clean-up events around the Province in support of Coastal Clean-up Week.

Coastal education is also facilitated by the Two Oceans Aquarium with an increase of 15 000 learners visiting the aquarium from 2014-2017. The number of schools reached through the Aquarium’s outreach programme in 2017 was 3 034. In terms of capacitating the authorities, over the last three years there has been, at the very least, one ICM training session, with some years undergoing two training sessions per year (Table 1).

The impact of awareness, education and training lies in its potential to reduce the impacts on the coastal environment relating to coastal pressures such as land use, pollution (solid waste) and resource exploitation usually caused by ignorance and lack of knowledge. Furthermore, capacity building of officials to improve the effective implementation of coastal legislation, policies and programmes should also have a positive impact on coastal governance.

IMPACT

Creating awareness and providing education and training is a response to alleviating coastal pressures and impacts by making the general public aware of coastal features and coastal pressures in an effort to change behaviour and instil a sense of collective ownership and responsibility of coastal conservation and preservation. The Western Cape Coastal Management Programme (WCCMP) identified capacity building, advocacy and education as a key priority area. The three management objectives with associated 5-year implementation strategies include:

- Educate stakeholders and build their awareness to instil a sense of ownership and an appreciation of the value of the coast;
- Build political and stakeholder support for effective coastal management; and
- Undertake a prioritised capacity development programme to support the implementation of ICM.

RESPONSES

Table 1: The total number of persons receiving ICM training / capacity building per year

YEAR	TYPE OF TRAINING	NUMBER OF DELEGATES
2013	DEA&DP Estuaries Workshop (20 November)	56
2014	Estuarine Management Chairpersons Forum (18 February)	19
2015	ICMA/SPLUMA (19 March)	22
2015	ICMA- support workshop (26 May)	33
2016	Western Cape Integrated Management Act Training (1-2 March)	97
2016	Estuary Management Framework Workshop (14-15 March)	59
2016	ICMA with focus on Environmental Governance (17 November)	17
2017	ICMA with focus on Estuaries (1-2 March)	67
2017	ICMA with focus on CML (03 March)	21
2017	Estuary Management Course (6-8 March)	66
2017	Marine Mammal Stranding Workshop (15 June)	30



OUTLOOK: IMPROVING

“An educated public can be one of the most powerful weapons in the world’s battle against harm to the environment” (Carl E. Bruch, Elizabeth Mrema, UNEP 2006). In general, environmental awareness and education programmes are aimed at communicating knowledge, skills and the desired attitude of an individual with the intention of getting people to adapt and pursue their activities and development in a sustainable manner. The current awareness, education and training campaigns and programmes run by DEA&DP indicate that efforts to create awareness and provide education and training appear to be either increasing or steady.