



## Source to Sea Programme

Amatola Freshwater Species Project

Crocodile-Marico Catchment Project

Orange-Senqu River Basin

SA Sustainable Seafood Initiative Project - SASSI

Dugong Protection Project

Healthy Catchment Alliance

News & Sponsors

Water is one of the most important substances on earth. All plants and animals must have water to survive. If there was no water there would be no life on earth. The Endangered Wildlife Trust is committed to preserving this resource and all life forms that depend on it.

The Source to Sea Programme represents the amalgamation of the Healthy Rivers Programme (HRP) and the Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme (MCCP). The habitats found in the catchments of rivers are inadvertently linked to benthic habitats on the sea floor, and although connectivity at the two extremes is difficult to conceptualize, disruptions to ecosystem services or habitat loss in the catchments will have a ripple effect through the system, affecting the ecosystem integrity and functioning of the rivers, estuaries, and nearshore environment.

The formation of the EWT-STSP recognizes this connectivity and allows the EWT to address broader scale conservation issues regarding the conservation of water resources and threatened species in southern Africa.

### Healthy Rivers Project

Rivers form the lifeblood of our existence and protecting these crucial ecosystems is becoming more and more critical as economic development and growing populations require increasing amounts of water. Throughout Southern Africa, freshwater ecosystems are under severe pressure with more than 80% of South Africa's rivers being threatened.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Source to Sea Programme is working to conserve National Freshwater Priority Areas (NFEPAs) through Biodiversity Stewardship, integrated catchment management, strengthening of compliance and enforcement, education and awareness raising and the development of alternative livelihoods via the "green economy".

### Freshwater Facts:

- Freshwater biodiversity is THE over-riding conservation priority during the International Decade for Action – 'Water for Life' – 2005 to 2015
- 10 000+ fish species live in fresh water (±40% of global fish diversity and one quarter of global vertebrate diversity)
- ±100 000 out of approximately 1.75 million of the species described by science are confined to freshwater (6%)
- Goods and services derived from inland waters have an estimated global value of several trillion US\$ (food and drinking water, water filtration and flood control)
- A systematic assessment of river biodiversity in South Africa found that 84% of river ecosystems are threatened with 54% critically endangered
- Only 16 of the 112 main river ecosystems are moderately to well represented within protected areas
- South Africa's river ecosystems are under more pressure than its terrestrial ecosystems
- The Vaal River and the Crocodile River are considered the two hardest working rivers in South Africa.

### Marine and Coastal Project

The Marine and Coastal component of the Source to Sea Programme is currently expanding its area of focus. The programme emerged in the mid 1990s with a project to monitor the status of Humpbacked Dolphins, a threatened species which is negatively affected by shark nets off the KZN coast. Interactions with specialists, government and other NGOs have since revealed an increasing number of impacts negatively affecting oceans and coasts in southern Africa. Since mid-2006, the Marine and Coastal Programme redefined its aims and objectives and has since been working to develop a comprehensive programme to tackle some of the major threats and to promote healthy marine and coastal ecosystems.

Marine and Coastal Objectives	EWT Strategic Imperatives
Populations of threatened marine, coastal and estuarine species are protected	SI 1: Identify human induced threats and the affected species in order to halt or reverse species decline. SI4: Increase awareness and mainstream environmental considerations in the daily lives of people and decision makers
Marine, coastal and estuarine habitats are protected and restored	SI 2: Ensure that the viability of the threatened habitats and ecosystems is maintained
Negative impacts on marine, coastal and estuarine ecosystems are reduced	SI 1: Identify human induced threats and the affected species in order to halt or reverse species decline SI 3: Develop innovative, economically viable alternatives to address harmful impacts to the benefit of people and biodiversity SI 6: Provide leadership to ensure the efficient implementation, compliance and enforcement of conservation legislation

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