

November 2008

THE NATIONAL MARINE WEEK 2008

To mark the National Marine Week, the Department of Economic Development and Environment (DEDEA) will be celebrating with the community of Ingquza Hill Local Municipality in Lusikisiki on 5th November 2008.

The national theme for this year's National Marine Week is "Changing Climate, Changing Oceans and Coasts, Changing lives:", All hands on deck!!!

The drastic climate change to our planet has caused strain to the environment and people. Action needs to be taken to mitigate against and adapt to climate change. Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs as the custodian of marine resources in South Africa has adopted a strategic framework for climate change policy and is hosting a National Climate Change Response Summit three months after National Marine Week to finalize a detailed climate change policy directives supported by policy development timelines and milestones.

Our oceans and coasts are not exempted from climate change and changes to our oceans and coasts directly impact on lives of people. Studies have demonstrated that both the temperature increases and the increased concentrations of CO₂ in the oceans absorb approximately 80% of the heat and 26% of the combined carbon sources from deforestation and fossil fuel burning. Many marine organisms are already affected by these stresses including impacts due to coral bleaching and ocean acidification.

South Africa has observed migration and drastic declines of fish stocks and reasons for these are agreed to be illegal fishing practices and ecological changes. Because human populations are increasing most rapidly in coastal areas, mitigating the impacts of anticipated climate change is the key determinant in reducing the vulnerability of coastal populations and ecosystems. People are directly linked to the life around them and many industries around the world rely on the oceans and coasts for food and other natural resources. **Changes in the natural systems and infrastructure will reduce the livelihood assets of people, especially the poor alter the rate and path of National economic growth, change the quality and quantity of natural resources and reduce ecosystem productivity.**

It is therefore important to ensure that everyone – Public, Industry, Business, NGO's, Government and academia work together to mitigate the effects of climate change. All South Africans and in particular poor communities are especially vulnerable to many projected future

climate impacts. Therefore we all need to work together effectively to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs celebrates the National Marine Week every year during October with the purpose of among other things creating awareness on the Marine and Coastal Environment, the promotion of sustainable use and conservation of these resources for the benefit of both the present and future generations.

EVENT DETAILS

DATE : Wednesday 5th November 2008

VENUE : Kwakonjwayo A/A
Ingquza Hill Local Municipality, Lusikisiki

TIME : 10:00

For all enquiries regarding this campaign and RSVP, you may contact Mr. S. Makaula @ 040 609 3299