

For any questions regarding the oceans and for information and education materials please contact:

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The Government of the Republic of Namibia



National Marine Information and Research Centre



Namibian Coast Conservation (NACOMA) project



Municipality of Swakopmund

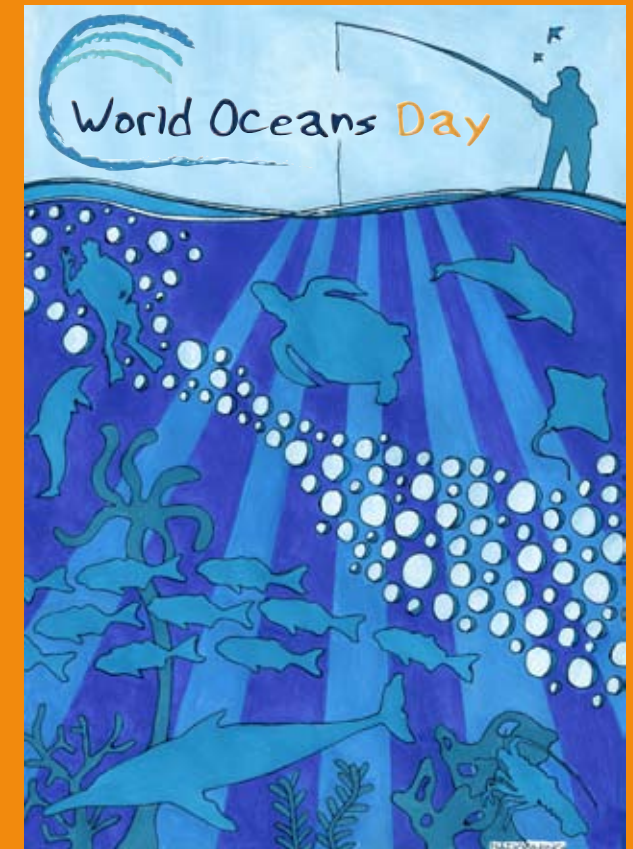


Benguela Current Commission

&

Confederation of Namibian Fishing Associations

Namibia celebrates



World Oceans Day

8 June

Oceans of Life

*Together we can make
a real difference to our
Oceans of Life!*

The logo for World Oceans Day features a stylized blue wave graphic on the left, with the text "World Oceans Day" written in a blue, hand-drawn font to its right.

World Oceans Day

In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly decided that, as from 2009, **8 June** would be designated by the United Nations as **World Oceans Day**.

Why do we celebrate World Oceans Day?

The official designation of World Oceans Day is an opportunity to raise global awareness of the current challenges faced by the international community in connection with the oceans. On this day people around the world come together to raise awareness of the best ways to utilize and protect the oceans and to learn of the problems they cause to the ocean.

Why do you need the oceans?

The world's oceans:

- Generate most of the oxygen you breathe
- Act as a huge carbon sink
- Provide food
- Regulate our climate
- Supply you with clean water
- Provide limitless inspiration and recreation!

What can you do to protect the oceans?

- Take responsibility

- Prevent pollution – do not litter or dispose hazardous substances
- Clean up – pick up litter that others have left behind
- Respect national regulations to protect the environment and marine animals (e.g. bag and size limits for line fish and crayfish)
- Change perspective – encourage your family and friends to think about what the ocean means to them and what it has to offer all of us with hopes of conserving it for present and future generations
- Learn – discover the wealth of diverse and beautiful ocean creatures and habitats, how our daily actions affect them, and how we are all interconnected
- Get involved
- Support the creation and maintenance of marine parks and reserves

It's up to each one of us to help ensure that our ocean is protected and conserved for future generations.

Did you know?

- The sun's heat warms the oceans, which absorb heat and redistribute it around the world by way of currents and interaction with the atmosphere, thereby regulating the Earth's climate?

- The oceans absorb huge amounts of CO₂, thus delaying global warming?
- As on land, ocean plants assure the process of photosynthesis (thereby produce oxygen) and nourish animals?
- Less than one percent of the marine environment is within protected areas, compared with nearly nine percent of the land surface?
- The ocean along the Namibian coast is part of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME)?
- The BCLME is one of the most productive and least polluted parts of the world's oceans?
- That Namibia has a number of small rocky islands off the southern coast that host some highly endangered bird species, such as the African penguin, bank cormorant etc.?
- Pelagic fish such as our Namibian sardine (pilchard) and anchovy spend all their life in the upper layers of the ocean and never wander to the seabed unless they die?
- Demersal fish species such as hake and monk live on the seabed between 200m and 700m depth and are caught with trawlers that pull nets over the seabed?

Find more fascinating and interesting facts on our ocean at the library of the National Marine Information and Research Centre, Strandstreet, Swakopmund.