



Sustainable Coastal and Ocean Protection

The Challenge Coastal construction, overfishing, deforestation of coastal forests, mangrove woods, water pollution, and the global warming due to the climate change threaten many coastal waters all over the world. By destroying intact habitats, many people lose the basis of their lives, too, and have to face an unwritten future.

The Model Project in Asia

Camotes Sea, Philippines

In collaboration with local environmental protection groups, the Visayas State University, and various local communities, NatureLife-International supports scientific basic groundwork and specific nature protection measures in the area Cuatro Islas in the Camotes Sea near the island Leyte on the Philippines. This includes environmental education and measures for a sustainable development. These measures have already led to a ban of the formerly widespread blast fishing, the development of alternative income sources for the islanders, and the establishment of some domestic ecotourism.

Together with the Visayas State University, a small research station was founded. This station is to function as the basis for scientific studies on the surrounding coral reefs which are endangered due to the climate change, overfishing, and other impacts. It not only enables students of marine biology to examine the marine flora and fauna, but is also a fundament for long-term monitoring.

There are regular environmental education courses for the islanders in order to make new partners in the commitment for the environment and a sustainable development.



The Model Project in South Africa

Save the Wild Coast

The Wild Coast in South Africa is a hotspot of biodiversity because of its unique vegetation, and many plants and animals exist nowhere else on our planet. On about 1,800 square kilometres (or 180,000 hectare), about 1,800 known plants grow of which around 200 only exist in this region.

The Wild Coast furthermore has a great variety of habitats, e.g. grassland, forests, rocks, wetland, bog forests, wooded dunes, or mangrove woods. There are many rivers and estuaries of which some have caught impressive gorges through the sandstone underneath.

Because of its unspoilt beaches with their impressive cliffs and reefs, this coastal area is of great international importance. It attracts huge flocks of seabirds, especially during the annual movement of the sardines along the coast, and offers important wintering grounds for various migratory birds from Europe. Migratory birds show us Europeans that it does matter what happens to the nature in other countries or on other continents – for example in South Africa. Similarly, people from South Africa have to care about the European nature.

Australian mining companies and some South African politicians would like to push through their short-term interests in the Wild Coast, the last unexploited and widely unspoilt coastal area in South Africa. Not only a planned national street near the coast, but also open pits and all the connected infrastructure would destroy forever this unique landscape and important hibernation site for European migratory birds.

South African environmental protection organisations together with citizens' initiatives achieved a deepening strategic environmental impact assessment carried out by the local government, the South African Development Community, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This assessment is to scrutinise the protection goals for the Wild Coast, an area that is very important for ecotourism, the quality of the people's life, and biodiversity. Furthermore it is to examine the opportunities of a sustainable development.

NatureLife-International
Foundation for environment, education and sustainability
Bahnhofstrasse 35
71638 Ludwigsburg
Germany
Telephone +49-7141-92 03 21
Fax +49-7141-90 11 83
claus-peter.hutter@naturelife-international.org
www.naturelife-international.org