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An assessment of the impact of illegal dumping of waste material by fishermen and communities on riverine biodiversity on selected areas of the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa

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Illegal dumping of waste materials have a huge impact on marine biodiversity, irrespective of marine and riverine laws that are put in place and practiced. There have been attempt to provide subsistence fishing extension officer services to facilitate in bringing communities fully into the management system, in an orderly and equitable manner, by facilitating the granting of formal subsistence fishing right. This investigation attempts to identify potential fisheries that should be considered as subsistence fisheries. Though it cannot be confirmed from previous studies that some relevant organizations are not fully taking their responsibilities, the study will further enable exploration of options and challenges associated with future management of subsistence fisheries and provide recommendations to enable proper implementation of the policies and legislations. Subsistence fishing in South Africa was formally recognized as a special fisheries sector in 1998 by the Marine Living Resource Act No 18 of 1998 (MLRA). The Marine Living Resource Act No 18 of 1998 was provided for conservation of marine ecosystem, long term sustainable utilization of marine living resources and the orderly access to exploitation, utilization and protection of certain marine living resources. This act provides the exercise to control over marine living resources in fair and equitable manner to the benefit of all the citizens of South Africa. The white paper for Sustainable Coastal Development in South Africa, (White paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa Biological Diversity Notice 1095 of 1999) defines sustainable coastal development as enhancing the capacity of the current and future generations to realize human potential, within the content of maintaining diverse, healthy and productive coastal ecosystem. The Marine and Coastal Management Unit (MCM) of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) appointed a Subsistence Fishers Task Group (SFTG) to provide recommendations of system for the implementation of Subsistence Fishermen Management (SFM). These recommendations formed the basis for the subsistence fishermen management system.

Biography

Sibonelo was the deputy Director at Environmental Quality Management under Northern Cape Provincial Government. He is presently working at University of South Africa, Science Campus-Florida, South Africa. He has extensive leadership, education, management, policy development and environmental management experience. He has high level of interpersonal skills, well-developed communication, and planning and organisation skills, with strong aptitude to motivate and support teams and individuals in order to transfer skills. He has high levels of cognitive and emotional capacity and he is creative, versatile, adaptable and energetic.

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