

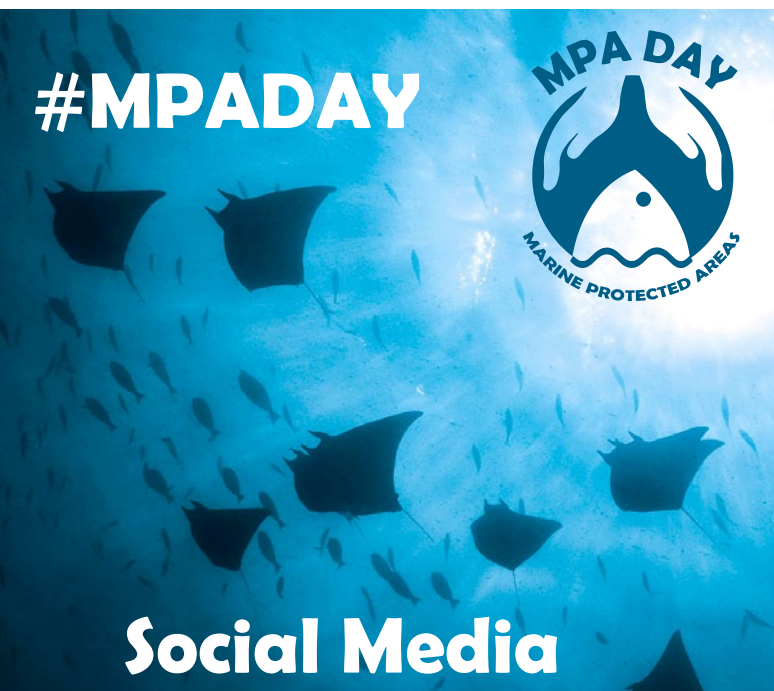


MPA DAY 2023

Biggest MPA Day yet welcomes more marine champions in the fight for ocean health.

On 1 August 2023, the third annual Marine Protected Areas Day (MPA Day) was hosted across South Africa. Global celebrations made 2023 the biggest MPA Day yet!

MPA Day extended into a week of ocean-based activities, all sharing the message of MPA protection and support.



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN



@MPAsSA1

MPA Day Twitter Chat reached **10 million individuals** from many different countries.

2023 Twitter Chat was the biggest yet.



@mpa.sa

Our TikTik account was launched, reaching a new audience.



#MPAday2023

During the MPA Day Live Virtual Tour participants experienced the wonders of South Africa's iconic MPAs from the comfort of their home

<https://youtu.be/Ortlxg7u3hw>

WEBINAR FOR ANGLERS

“What do recreational anglers, managers and scientists think about the effectiveness of our Marine Protected Areas”.

Hosted by **Dr Bruce Mann** from the **Oceanographic Research Institute**, anglers, managers and scientists shared insights into the effectiveness, as well as the challenges of MPAs during a **Webinar for Recreational Anglers**.

<https://youtu.be/oARkrwccemU>





MARINE PROTECTED AREA DAY

"Celebrating MPAs for people"

1st AUGUST 2023



MPA DAY IN TANZANIA

Tanzania joined in the MPA Day celebration with **Marine Parks and Reserve Unit** Tanzania Virtual Meeting.

Over 70 high-level participants from government, NGOs, MPA managers, ecotourism operators, aquaculture and fisheries stakeholders gathered for a discussion on MPA benefits and challenges.

ALIWAL SHOAL OCEAN FESTIVAL

On the KZN South Coast an ocean festival around **Aliwal Shoal MPA** saw participants heading to Scottburgh Beach for a series of **ocean-based activities**.

These included:

- a beach walk from Illovo River to Happy Wanderers Beach,
- a beach clean-up along the way,
- a surfski paddle race
- biodiversity and ocean health parameters were analysed by the Oceanographic Research Institute (a division of SAAMBR) and the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB).

KZN SOUTH COAST

KZN South Coast ocean enthusiasts gathered at the backline for a **thanksgiving ritual** during a paddle out, organised by **KMOS Oceanic Conservation NPO**. Local community NGO **Keep Scottburgh Beautiful** was there with bags and gloves, encouraging beachgoers to participate in an impromptu beach clean-up.

A DAY OF FUN AT SODWANA BAY

Children are an important part of the MPA Day programme and exciting activities were hosted by **Adventure Mania in Sodwana Bay**. Local children were treated to a day exploring the rock pools, playing ocean-related games and learning more about these special places.

THE WESTERN CAPE JOINED IN

In the Western Cape, the **NRF-SAEON Egagasini Node** conducted workshops and meetings with coastal and inland communities and school groups.

KELP NIGHT AT TWO OCEANS

Kelp Night at the **Two Oceans Aquarium** was an immersive experience for a full house of 200 guests who were treated to **kelp-based canapes and cocktails** provided by



The Kelp Shack and **Blackwood Spirits** while getting unique insights on MPAs. Speakers included Dr Jannes Landschoff, from the **Sea Change Project**. Coastal Forager and Educator, **Roushanna Gray** and author, and story teller **Leonie Joubert**.

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS

SANParks hosted an event at their **Table Mountain National Park** office where students, rangers and guests engaged in a captivating discussion with **Craig Foster and Swati Thiyagarajan** from the **Sea Change Project** and **Ezekiel Kosa** and **Dr Alison Kock** from SANParks.

A short film, directed by Swati Thiyagarajan, featuring the **Table Mountain National Park MPA**, was launched.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3u1W_O3dfE

WHY MPAs MATTER FOR ALL

On 3 August, **Leadership for Conservation in Africa (LCA) Unlocking Nature** saw MPA Day Founder, **Dr Judy Mann**, speak to 70 participants (mostly inland) on the topic:

Why do South Africa's Marine Protected Areas matter?

EXPLORING THE SHORE

On the 5 August, over 200 people flocked to the **Dalebrook Tidal Pool for a Treasure Hunt** hosted by the **Two Oceans Aquarium**. Families searched for colourful anemones, split-fan kelp, spiky urchins, tiny sea stars, the odd octopus, and more marine life.

CAPE NATURE VIDEO SERIES

CapeNature broadcast the four-part video series **Chronicles of the Coast** during August. The series focused on topics including partnerships, the use of science for coastal and marine conservation, combatting crime within the marine environment, and the **Betty's Bay Marine Protected Area**.

theexpeditionproject.com/marine-protection-areas/

Youth4MPAs

On 5 August the **Youth4MPAs Film Screening, Discussion and Reflection** of Empatheatre's **Lalela uLwandle** (Listen to the Ocean). This discussion reflected on South Africa's MPAs and **what they mean to the youth**. The 35 participants enjoyed learning about MPAs – a concept that most were unfamiliar with.

www.empatheatre.com/lalela-ulwandle

