



# MARPLASTICCs Circular Economy grants in Eastern and Southern Africa



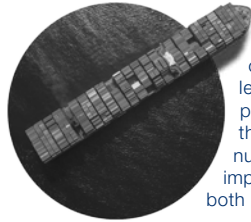
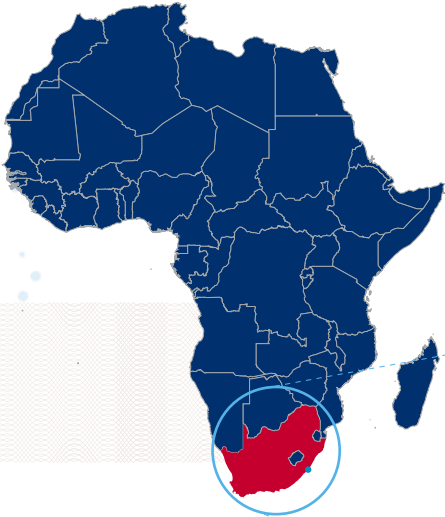
Blue Port Project, a project of the WILDTRUST, Durban Port, South Africa

The Blue Port Project is an initiative by the WILDTRUST, with the aim to create action-based research and implementation of strategic interventions to reduce plastic waste in the Durban Port and ultimately restore the Durban Bay to its natural functioning state. The initiative is part of the Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities (MARPLASTICCs) project managed by IUCN and supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.



## The Durban Port

Situated on the east coast of South Africa, the Durban Port is a modern, well-equipped and highly industrialized port. Whilst the port supports various commercial, recreational, educational and social activities, it has become increasingly degraded as plastic waste, carried along the rivers and stormwater canals, flows into the Port. Despite the level of degradation, the estuary of the port remains an important ecosystem that provides vital nursery areas for a number of marine species and an important roosting and feeding area for both migratory and resident birds.



### Community engagement

In an effort to integrate the community into greater circularity, the initiative offers disadvantaged youth the opportunity to take part in waste management. Hired through the Youth Employment Services (YES) programme, the operational team of the Blue Port is composed of previously unemployed community members responsible for collecting and sorting waste accumulated in the port. The initiative thus enables large-scale employment in the environmental sector that also creates a shift in environmental consciousness and behaviour change in these families.

STEP 01



Innovative waste trapping interventions and up-cycling initiatives with Transnet Port Authority

STEP 02



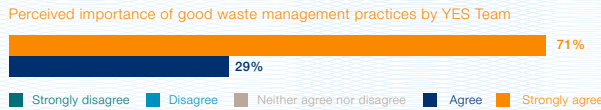
YES Blue Port team collecting and sorting waste

STEP 03



Plastic waste is turned into "ocean pavers" in collaboration with IMAGINEiF

3 new waste trapping interventions implemented



5,000 ocean pavers produced

29,794 kg of material upcycled

21,081 kg of avoided plastic leakage into the Durban Bay



Durban Port ecosystem health improved

Plastic waste materials value chain developed through the development of waste reduction innovations

Livelihoods and environmental awareness of marginalized groups improved through YES programme

Plastic pollution has become a global problem threatening our environment, health and economies. As part of the Marine Plastics and Coastal Communities (MARPLASTICCs) project, IUCN strengthens the capacity of local and regional actions to control plastic pollution and has been supporting five existing, small-scale Circular Economy initiatives in Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Thailand and Vietnam.

<https://page.impacttrack.org/blue-port-project>  
<https://www.iucn.org/theme/marine-and-polar/our-work/close-plastic-tap-programme>  
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