



Let's not tolerate beach littering!

... nor marine debris of any kind



Origins & impacts

As human beings we are the only ones to blame for polluting our coastlines and oceans, whether the litter originates from us visiting beaches, ocean vessels or gets blown there from elsewhere.

Marine debris is any man-made material that enters the waterways off Namibia's coast, directly or indirectly. Garbage that finds its way into our environment affects the wildlife as well as beach visitors negatively.

- X Marine litter spoils the beauty of the sea and the coastal zone.
- X Garbage contaminates and defaces our beautiful beaches and those treasured fishing sites along our long coast.
- X Marine litter affects the important areas where birds, seals, marine life and wildlife occur and are protected.
- X Certain types of marine debris, such as broken glass and medical waste wash-ups, can pose a serious threat to public health.
- X Nearly 80 per cent of debris found on beaches, coastal waters, estuaries and oceans is washed, blown or dumped from shore, while



20 per cent is from recreational boats, fishing vessels and ocean platforms.

- X Marine litter can be blown over long distances by winds, drift in the water column and float with deep ocean currents, or sink to the seabed.
- X International studies have shown that marine debris threatens over 265 different species of marine and coastal wildlife through entanglement, smothering and interference with digestive systems. Also the litter entering our seas and oceans is reducing fish and wildlife populations, whether it is of small or large scale quantities.
- X Along Namibia's coast various kinds of litter can be found, ranging from packaging material, e.g. strapping bands; plastic bags; fishing tackle; cans; bottles; cigarette butts to personal hygiene and medical items.
- X The cumulative impact of continuous, small-scale pollution can be dramatic. The increase in the use of various kinds of plastic as durable, lightweight packaging has increased the need for proper management and disposal.
- X Constant and widespread debris and pollution could have a serious impacts on the tourism and holiday seasons.





This pamphlet was made possible by the kind sponsorship from
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For more information on the conservation of the coastal biodiversity and sustainable development of the coast, visit the website of the Namibian Coast Conservation and Management (NACOMA) project: www.nacoma.org.na

Our responsibilities and actions

As Namibians and foreign visitors we can start by looking after our own coastal environment first. But we can also voice our concerns regarding international environmental matters that impact negatively on us and our coastline.

Let's not further tolerate any further beach littering, and even more, let's clamp down on any marine litter and pollution.

Here are some of the responsibilities you can take up as individuals or in groups:

- ✓ Set an example by taking care of the environment.
- ✓ Speak out and act against beach and marine littering.
- ✓ Don't expect others to collect waste from beaches on your behalf.
- ✓ Remove your refuse after you have enjoyed your visit. Take along containers/bags for that purpose.
- ✓ Friendly request others to remove their waste from beach areas if they don't seem to do so.

- ✓ People found littering in the dunes and on the beaches will be prosecuted.
- ✓ Report transgressions to the authorities (Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Municipalities or Namibian Police).
- ✓ Don't leave fish and tackle waste on the beach. Take them home and/or throw the fish into the sea.
- ✓ Use the designated fish cleaning spots and refuse bins.
- ✓ Dump rubbish in municipal garbage containers or at garbage sites.
- ✓ Be considerate to other visitors when visiting our beaches.
- ✓ Become aware of and participate in the recycling of litter.
- ✓ Wise up on waste management and understand how it can help to alleviate the problem.
- ✓ Participate in volunteer coastal clean up events or other environmental projects.
- ✓ Respect Namibia's coastal environment and its unique natural biodiversity.

