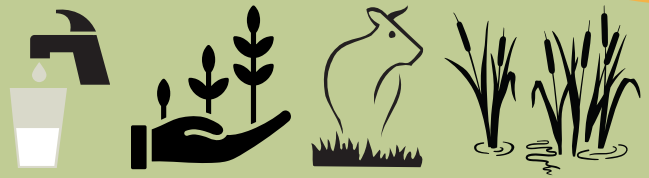
Why Protect Freshwater Resources?

Freshwater is a limited and essential resource. Only 2.5% of the Earth's water is freshwater, and even less is accessible for human use. The Salt (Oos) River is just one vital freshwater resource for local communities, wildlife, and agriculture.

Protecting this waterway is essential for:

- Ensuring a clean, reliable source of drinking water for nearby residents.
- Maintaining ecosystems that support diverse plant and animal species.
- Providing water for crops and livestock in the surrounding areas.
- Restoring wetlands and forests to increase water retention and reduce erosion during floods or droughts.

Protecting freshwater resources like the Salt River benefits not only local people but the entire environmental health of the region.



Discover the Salt River's Ecosystem and Join Us in Conservation Efforts

Get Involved: Your Actions Matter

There are many ways you can support Source to Sea conservation and help protect you local rivers.

- Participate in river and trail clean-ups to reduce litter and pollution.
- Help with invasive plant removal, water quality monitoring, and species surveys.
- Adopt water-saving habits at home to lessen the strain on our freshwater resources.
- Notify local authorities if you notice any water pollution or illegal dumping along the river.
- Educate others about the importance of rivers and local conservation efforts.

Stay Connected

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The Salt River

Protecting Freshwater Resources and Biodiversity: A Journey from Source to Sea

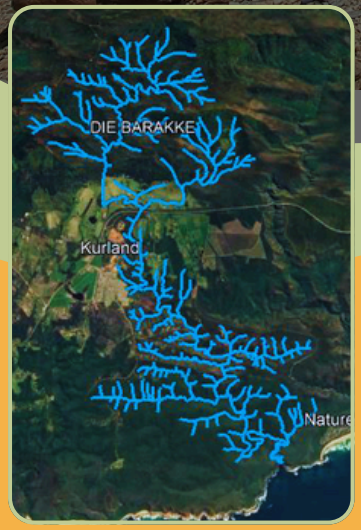
#CatchmentConservation

The Salt River Conservation Project: A Lifeline for Nature and Communities

The Salt River is one of the Garden Route's important freshwater systems, winding its way from the Tsitsikamma Mountains through to the ocean. Along its journey, the river nurtures a diverse array of species and provides essential resources for local communities and ecosystems.

The Salt River also connects terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments, making it a crucial habitat for biodiversity and a key area for water conservation efforts.

As a community, we are tasked with the responsibility of protecting this vital resource to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy its beauty and benefits.



Source to Sea: A Holistic Approach to Conservation

The Source to Sea project is dedicated to the sustainable management and restoration of the Salt River's ecosystem. From its upper catchment to the estuary, and inshore marine space our goal is to improve the health of the river, restore habitats, and protect its rich biodiversity.

This collaborative initiative involves local communities, stakeholders, and volunteers working together to address key challenges such as pollution, invasive species, and habitat degradation.

Key project components include:

- Invasive Alien Plant removal threaten water flow and native biodiversity.
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Protecting and restoring riverine forests, wetlands, and estuarine habitats that support diverse fauna and flora.

Your involvement is crucial in creating a thriving, healthy river system.



Discover the Rich Biodiversity of the Salt River

The Salt River and its surrounding habitats are home to a wide variety of species, many of which rely on the river for breeding and feeding. Key species to look out for include:

- Upper Catchment:
  - Indigenous forests that provide a range of ecosystem services that benefit us all.
  - Transition into agricultural land (Crops and Livestock).
- Mid Catchment:
  - Fynbos vegetation and indigenous amphibians: These plants and animals thrive in the pristine, clean waters of the river's source.
  - Gondwanaland relict macroinvertebrates.
- Lower Catchment:
  - African fish eagle and Half-collared kingfishers.
  - Yellowwoods and other indigenous vegetation.
- Estuary:
  - Shorebirds (Kelp gulls, African black oystercatchers, Cape cormorant, etc.) that rely on the brackish water of the estuary.
  - Juvenile fish species: Species like Kabeljou and Steenbras, which rely on the estuary as a nursery before moving to the ocean.

These species are part of an interconnected web of life, dependent on the health and sustainability of the river system.