



Blue Schools in South Africa

NRF-SAEON



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Department:
Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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SAEON
South Africa Environmental
Observation Network

What is Blue Schools?

A **Blue School** integrates ocean learning into the curriculum, recognizing the important role formal education plays in fostering an ocean literate society.

A Blue School promotes an **interdisciplinary, inquiry, and project-based** approach to teaching and learning.

Blue Schools in SA

The aim is to get these learners to think about their:

- connections to the ocean,
- to increase their ocean literacy and to
- encourage their curiosity and problem-solving skills in designing their own research project.

How does Blue Schools work?

The programme/competition runs annually

- Open for all South African schools
- Target: Grade 6 – 11 learners
- Format: learners run with their research project that is connected to the ocean

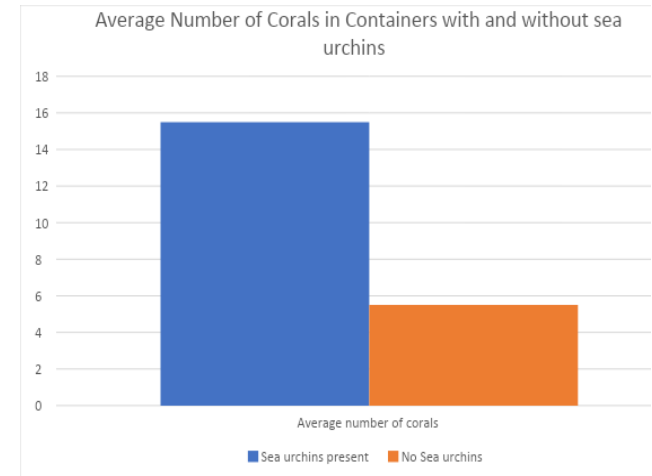
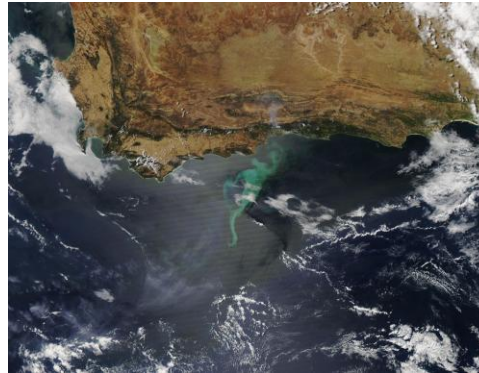
Portfolio Booklet: activities

Case studies and data examples


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Ocean Literacy Principles

1) The Earth has one big ocean with many features.

2) The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth.

3) The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.

4) The ocean made the Earth habitable.

5) The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

6) The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.

7) The ocean is largely unexplored.



Blue Schools success story - Leony

- Leony Moyisile, a Grade 11 learner from Thabane Secondary School, in the Northern Cape
- Project “Copper catcher: a natural ocean purification using crushed seashells.”
- Focused on investigating whether crushed seashells can reduce copper pollution in water.
- With the potential to provide a low-cost, eco-friendly filter and help protect marine ecosystems





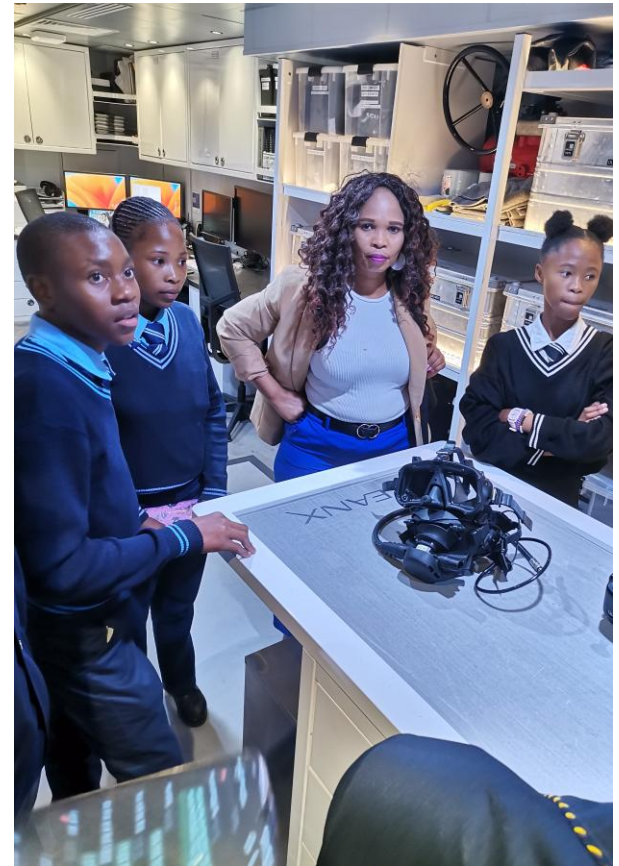
Blue Schools success story - Chanelle

- Chanelle Ngwenya, a Grade 9 learner from Emang Mmogo Comprehensive School, in the Northern Cape
- Project “The Role Of Ocean Currents In Global Weather Patterns.”
- Focused on assessing the impact of ocean currents on global weather patterns, how they influence climates and weather events incl. Agulhas and Benguela currents

Blue Schools success story - Ndamulelo

- Ndamulelo Netshikovhela, a Grade 10 learner from Thengwe High School, in Limpopo
- Project “Algal Blooms in Mutshindudi River.”
- Focused on assessing how nitrogen and Phosphorus affect algal bloom frequency in the Mutshindudi River during the winter months





Blue Schools and OceanX

Exploring Ocean Literacies through a camp

- Primary goal: To advance understanding of ocean literacy for inland learners using transdisciplinary methods.
- We promoted ocean literacy by integrating scientific frameworks with arts, social science, and marine science.
- The camp deepened personal understanding of the ocean's importance, terrestrial impacts, and demonstrated success in overcoming geographical and socio-cultural barriers.



Ocean Literacy Camp 2026

SAEON Community Engagement



Thank You!

