

# Sustainable Seas Trust



[www.sst.org.za](http://www.sst.org.za) ; [info@sst.org.za](mailto:info@sst.org.za) ; ☎ 083 6401588

PO Box 77  
Threeways Centre  
Kenton Road  
Kenton-on-Sea  
6191 South Africa

## Celebrate our South African seas and the 20th year of the new South Africa

It is time to take a stand to protect our coast and save our sea life. We don't have any time left to take our natural resources for granted. As well-known marine ecologist and conservationist Sylvia Earle said, "This is the most important decade in human history and arguably the most important in the next 10 000 years". Without action we will lose those critically endangered animals and plants we hear about on the news.

Did you know we only have three percent of the Western Cape crayfish left? The good news is that we have the three percent left as stock to grow if we take action now and do no further harm. The crayfish is one of many South African marine life creatures that are under as much threat as the rhino. Similarly, we have only two percent of many tuna, of some sharks and many other big fish left.

[Sustainable Seas Trust](#) (SST) encourages you to click your shutter in support of South Africa's marine resources and enter the nationwide photographic competition.

"With every breath we take, every drop of water we drink, we're connected to the ocean. It is our life support system, giving us more than half of the oxygen we breathe, regulating climate, and providing valuable resources."

*Sylvia Earle*

The photographic competition is one of many initiatives through which SST seeks to invite support for the identification and development of [Hope Spots](#) along our coastline.

[Hope Spots](#), a phrase coined by, SST's international patron, Dr Sylvia Earle, are "pristine places in the sea that, if protected, can serve as sources of renewal for depleted species and systems, while contributing to overall planetary stability and health". The renowned oceanographer and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence added that even traumatized areas can with care "be restored to a better condition - a cause for hope".  
<http://mission-blue.org/hope-spots-new/>

"One of the best ways to encourage people to think about the environment, celebrate the beauty of South Africa and become part of the conservation movement is to involve them in taking action," SST's founding trustee and director, Dr Tony Ribbink said, adding that conservation and sustainability depend on people choosing to behave in ways that care for the environment.

"The action of picking up a camera and thinking about the environment being photographed is one small step in the right direction. If many people take this small step, then the overall cumulative commitment has the potential to become a powerful movement, especially if the youth of today is involved," Dr Ribbink said.

While the competition encourages an understanding that leads to people opting to commit to more sustainable lifestyles, another objective is to develop support for SST's education and skills training programmes which benefit impoverished coastal communities.

**Trustees:** Robert Lowe (Chairman), Frederick Krohnert (representing Nedbank Trust), Richard Laing, Baldwin Ngubane, Frederick Oosthuizen, Anthony Ribbink, Michael Rodel, Louis van Vuren

*The Sustainable Seas Trust is registered as a charitable, non-profit, public benefit institution*  
Trust Registration: IT 2203/ 2006 South Africa | NPO Number: 078-120-NPO | PBO Number: 930022444

## Sustainable Seas Trust

---

The SST Photo Competition is open to all photographers with prizes for the best photographs from the three categories of youth, hobbyists, and professional photographers and seeks “to encourage the public to get out and about on our country’s coastlines in order to capture what they believe makes our coastlines some of the best in the world and more importantly what we should be striving to preserve”. The five photographic sections are: Scenery; Recreation and Sport; Culture and History; and Marine Life.

“A further step is for the public to evaluate the photographs and vote for those which they think are excellent and deserve to be published and win awards. Once again, people need to think about the environment and the messages related to conservation and sustainability.” Dr Ribbink said. All photo entries are available for viewing and liking on the [Sustainable Seas Trust & SEA Pledge Facebook](#) page in the 2013 Photo Competition album.

The photographs selected by the public and professional judges will be published in a book to celebrate 20 years of the New South Africa with a focus on the *Splendours of South African Seas* as one aspect of our national heritage. Winning photographs are eligible for a variety of sponsored prizes offered by SST and Hanli Prinsloo, Fiona Ayerst, Peter van Kets, Eleanor Yeld Hutchings, Dalfrenzo Laing and Peter Chadwick.

The closing date for entries is 1 February 2014 visit [www.sst.org.za](http://www.sst.org.za) for more information.

**View all the current photo entries available here:**

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/sst\\_photocompetition/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sst_photocompetition/)

### MORE ABOUT THE JUDGES:

- Fiona Ayerst heads up the multi-award winning Fiona Ayerst Underwater Photography agency which seeks to offer ‘a unique glimpse into the history and wildlife of the world’s oceans’.
- Peter van Kets is an extreme endurance adventurer, who was awarded the SA OutThere Adventurer of the Year 2011 award for crossing the Atlantic in a seven meter rowing boat. Peter was the first African to tackle the 5438 km unsupported row across the Atlantic.
- South African marine biologist, Dr Eleanor Yeld Hutchings, is the face of the SABC 3 award winning series, *Shoreline*.
- Dedicated Marine Guide, Dalfrenzo Laing, is based at De Hoop Nature Reserve, the Southern Most marine reserve on our continent. Dalfrenzo is one of the first South Africans to be trained as a marine guide under the auspices of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- Peter Chadwick is a dedicated conservationist and wildlife & conservation photographer with over 25 years of experience in terrestrial and marine protected area management.
- Freediving Champion, Hanli Prinsloo, of the I Am Water Trust, travels the world as a film maker, motivational speaker, conservationist and champion for our oceans.

## Sustainable Seas Trust

---

*Sustainable Seas Trust (SST) is a charitable, Public Benefit Organization and Not for Profit Organization in South Africa that operates exclusively for charitable, socioeconomic, scientific, educational and philanthropic purposes. SST is dedicated to harnessing the power of people at every level, from the poorest remote communities, to top level decision makers, to promote conservation, sustainability and habitat restoration. SST does this through working towards creating a vibrant, healthy, productive and sustainably managed South African coastline. This includes caring for marine environment, the animals that make the oceans their home and the people who use and enjoy the oceans. Through the production of films, posters, and educational booklets for teachers and students, SST raises environmental awareness to help conserve coastal areas. SST arose from the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP) at a time when countries from the Western Indian Ocean. ACEP was inaugurated and led by Dr Tony Ribbink, in 2001 after the discovery of a coelacanth off Sodwana Bay in October 2000.*



*Dr Sylvia Earle with Tony Ribbink, Nondumiso Mfenyana, Hanli Prinsloo and Ambassador Dr Ben Ngubane in Simonstown at the start of the 2013 Hope Spot Tour.*