

off the fence.

Keepers Of The Cape - The Issues

7 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Responsible Fishing

The great demand for seafood worldwide, amidst the declining populations of fish and marine life, has raised many concerns about whether our oceans will be able to keep up with our relentless demand. The reality is that due to over fishing we are harvesting resources faster than they can reproduce to maintain healthy populations. In so doing we are also upsetting fragile marine environments. In this episode we look at the WWF Responsible Fisheries Programme, which involves an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. We hear from programme manager, Dr. Samantha Petersen exactly what this entails and then Tali dons her waterproofs and sets sail aboard the Freesia, a trawling vessel. Here she chats to fishermen and others involved in the industry to find out how they are implementing the ecosystem approach.

2. West Coast

We visit South Africa's only Lagoon- the Langebaan Lagoon. The lagoon waters are highly productive, supporting important recreational and commercial fisheries, but the increased exploitation of the fish stocks has raised concerns. Tali meets up with a group of scientists who are doing various studies within the mpa so that they can assess the fish stocks and look at what role the mpa has in managing these stocks. Tali goes fishing for white stumpnose with Dr Colin Attwood, who is looking at the fish biology. We join him in a dissection and see all that this can reveal. She investigates spawning and goes trek fishing on the beach. She then tags a smooth hound shark in the lagoon and finally looks at how fish movements are tracked. In this jam-packed episode we show just how valuable this marine protected area is.

3. De Hoop Marine

De Hoop is the second largest mpa in South Africa and as a closed reserve, allowing no off-take; it is one of the most pristine marine ecosystems. Here we explore what this marine reserve has to offer. We join a monitoring expedition as they examine the health of the intertidal zone, then assist with reeling in some big one's in the world's largest tag and release project, we then go on an anti-poaching boat and aerial patrol and finally show you what has become one of the mpa's major draw cards- the Southern Right Whales that use these sheltered bays as a breeding ground. From the Black Oystercatcher to the Great White Shark- the waters and shores of De Hoop are a awesome sight!

4. Cape Agulhas

Cape Agulhas is the true meeting place of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. It is also a place of immense cultural and natural value. Only a decade old, Tali went in search of answers to her burning questions about establishing new parks and what role communities play in this process. She joins rangers and conservationists who are involved in community driven conservation initiatives and learns exactly how the Agulhas people have taken ownership of their natural and cultural heritage by becoming involved in their national park.

5. Cederberg

Recent years has seen the development of a mega reserve in the Cedarberg. Using a novel conservation model, the Greater Cedarberg Biodiversity Initiative is ensuring that the land is used in an efficient way and that the land and its inhabitants work in harmony. Tali investigate the various projects being used to achieve this. Farming is one of the main land use activities- Tali visits various potato and rooibos farmers to learn more about how they have changed their farming methods to help conserves the regions, biodiversity. Tali goes canoeing in Verlorenvlei and discovers what role it plays in the biodiversity of this region and finally she joins Quinton Martins from the Cape leopard Trust as he shares the threats facing the Cape Leopard and how his work with the farmers is overcoming some of these threats.

6. Cape Floristic region

The Cape Floristic Region or CFR is one of the world's 6 floral kingdoms and is the only floristic region to be housed entirely within the borders of a single country. With 70%, of its 9600 plant species, found nowhere else in the world, this is a biodiversity hotspot! To find out more about why this region is in such critical need of conservation, Tali spoke to various role-players in the struggle to protect the Cape's unique flora. Tali gets her hands dirty as she joins different conservationists in plant monitoring, seed collection, seed banking, plant propagation and smoking and finally replanting of endangered species at a fynbos reserve. By the end of this episode you will have a new appreciation for the Cape Fynbos.

7. Working For Water

It is estimated that the demand for water will exceed current available supplies by 2025. Currently, 98% of South Africa's water is allocated. Economic growth along with urbanization and industrialization is placing extreme demands on our water resources and ecosystems. In this episode we turn our attention to the damaging effects of these invasive alien plants on our country's water supply. Alien plant species consume an estimated 3 300 million kilolitres of water each year. At this rate there is only one certainty- either we find a solution or we face a water crisis in the future. Tali looks at three initiatives, Working for Wetlands; Working for Water and the Water Neutral Scheme. These projects share the same aim but operate in different ways and take us to various scenic locations on the Cape in an attempt to uncover what needs to be done to avert a water crisis.