

Communities march to save oceans from oil exploitation

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People from areas such as Mtubatuba, Hluhlulwe, Richards Bay, Empangeni, Mtunzini, Scottburgh, Umkomaas, Port Shepstone, Mthwalume, Umgababa, Port Edward, Margate and surrounding townships and suburbs of Durban joined the march.



Residents marched along the Durban Beachfront Promenade against proposed offshore oil and gas exploitation, voicing their concerns on placards.

Thousands of KwaZulu-Natal residents took to the Durban Beachfront Promenade to march last Thursday morning against proposed offshore oil and gas exploitation and against enabling, polluting corporations. The beautiful ocean and climate heritage is at stake.

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ALSO READ: [Community against oil and gas mining on the KZN coast](#)

This march is a coalition of many organisations like SDCEA, groundWork, Oceans not Oil, Coastal Links, KZN Subsistence Fisherfolk Forum and the Mtubatuba Community Environmental Justice Organisation.

Residents and environmental groups from all over the coast are urged to join them in order to stop oil drilling and secure the future for life and recreation.

Desmond D'Sa of the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA) said, "The need for resistance emerges from the ongoing Environmental Impact Applications put forward by oil corporations who wish to explore and drill for petroleum products in KwaZulu-Natal's Indian Ocean, which is also home to the rapid Agulhas current."

D'Sa added that KZN is renowned for its warm climate and attractive beaches, however, healthy oceans are critical for maintaining this beauty by being assets to vibrant marine life and to coastal communities whose economies rely on tourism, fishing and recreational activities.

ALSO READ: [Community furious over oil spill at Jacobs canal](#)

"Exposing the offshore areas to petroleum exploration, risks severely damaging our oceans and beaches without reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. If exploration commences KZN's coast may be subject to oil spills, seismic surveys, petroleum flaring and chemical contamination, with long-term costs for the tourism and fishing industries," he said.

Seismic testing has devastating impacts on marine life, especially whales and dolphins who have been beaching with increased frequency along the KwaZulu-Natal's east coast since 2016.

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