

PLASTIC FREE JULY WEBINAR

MICROPLASTICS AS ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSORS: RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Date: 27th July 2021

Time: 10H00 – 13H00

Context

The presence of plastics in the environment has largely been attributed to inadequate waste management and human behaviour. Although plastics in the environment are clearly undesirable for aesthetic and economic reasons, research on their impact to ecosystem and human health is still in its infancy and a lot remains uncertain. In particular, the presence of microplastics in water environments has gained great prominence lately, raising concerns about potential risk to the ecosystem and human health. The aim of this webinar is to share information on recent research on microplastics as environmental stressors, and examine the various criteria, principles and practices that communicators and scientists should consider when communicating risk information on plastics and particles in water environments. The purpose is to empower everyone with the knowledge as means for inspiring change in manufacturing practices, human attitude and behaviour concerning plastics and catalyzing a significant reduction in plastic pollution.

Webinar Programme

10H00 – 10H10	Opening remarks – Water Research Commission
10H10 – 10H30	Guest presentation 1 Mr Peter Manyara - Regional Project Coordinator -MARPLASTICCs, IUCN
10H30 – 10H50	Guest presentation 2 Perspectives on addressing plastics in the environment - TBC
10H50 – 11H00	Q and A
11H00 – 11H20	Presence of microplastics in freshwater environments – Ms Carina Verster (TBC)
11H20 – 11H40	Microplastics as environmental stressors – Ms Khaya Mgaba, Rhodes University
11H40 – 12H00	Presentation on risk communication and community engagement – Dr Nelson Odume, Rhodes University
12H00 – 12H20	Short discussion
12H20 – 12H30	Closure and way forward