

# LIVING BY THE OCEAN

## THIRTY THREE COUNTRIES IN AFRICA ARE COASTAL AND TOGETHER HAVE A COASTLINE 18,950 MILES LONG

**On our blue planet it can seem as though the bounty of the oceans is endless.**

The surface of planet Earth is two thirds salt water. Just like on land, however, the distribution of life is uneven. Most of the sea creatures live close to the shore, while the vast ocean floors can be quite deserted, being home to far fewer, specialist creatures able to survive in the deep dark depths.

Many of Africa's people make their living from the sea. The seas of course provide fish and other food stuffs such as seaweed. We travel between countries on the back of the sea. We use its products for building and for spiritual and aesthetic contentment.

Humans are drawn to the sea. Wherever you go in the world, the coast is the most popular habitat. People love to be beside the seaside. Perhaps because of the many fruits it has to offer, or because the rhythmic pounding of the waves, reminding us of the rhythm of our hearts.

