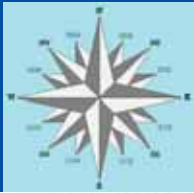


# What is GIS?



A geographic information system (GIS), also known as a geospatial information system, is a system for capturing, storing, analyzing and managing data and

associated attributes which are spatially referenced to the Earth.



In the strictest sense, it is an information

system of integrating, storing, editing, analyzing, sharing, and displaying geographically-referenced information. In a more generic sense, GIS is a tool that allows users to create interactive queries (user created searches), analyze the spatial information, edit data, maps, and present the results of all these operations. Geographic information science underlying the geographic concepts, applications and systems is taught in degree and GIS Certificate programs at many universities. Its a system used by air quality analysts all over the world.

“The health effects of air pollution imperil human lives. This fact is well-documented.”

**Eddie Bernice Johnson**

## South Durban suffers from...

- Increasing number of environmental incidents, such as spills and flares
- People living amidst nauseating odours, disruptive sounds, and repulsive sights
- Burning eyes, nose and throat, headaches, coughing and dizziness
- Increasing rates of Leukemia and Cancers
- High percentage of people, especially children with Asthma
- Removals from the area
- Contaminated ground water and gardens

Below is a copy of the Community Complaints database from the SDCEA GIS Computer

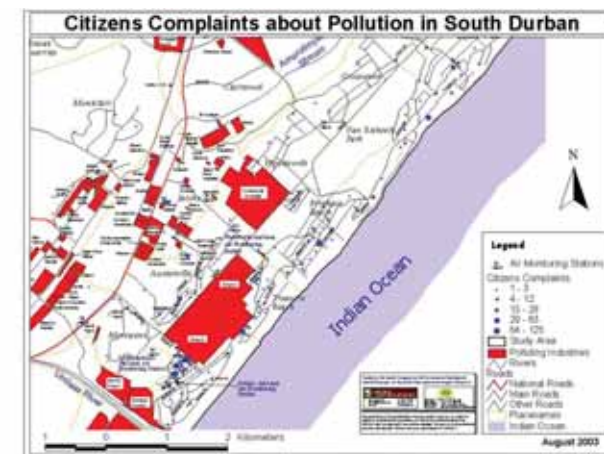
## What YOU can do about the Pollution in South Durban?

- Whenever there is evidence of a bad smell, smoke or pollution of any kind, you need to report it to the Metro Emergency Services. In Durban, the number to call is 031 – 361 0000. When you have reported it, you need to ask for a log number, and write it down; so that you can prove that you have reported it.
- Phone South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA) on 031 - 461 1991/468 9069. Please quote the log number you received from Metro Emergency.



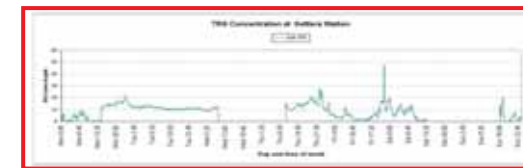
**Left:** A burst pipe at SAPREF has severe consequences on soil quality and marine life. Moreover is it highly dangerous as it could easily explode. Most pipes are older than twenty years.

**Right:** Thousands of people live in flats over-looking the ENGEN Oil Refinery in Wentworth and could be good watch-keepers in ensuring incidents both small and large are documented.



## What the SDCEA does after receiving your Complaints?

- The SDCEA has a GIS computer and your complaints are logged with your log number.
- The GIS Computer automatically maps this complaint as per map above.
- Thereafter the complaint is followed up with Metro Emergency, requesting a Pollution Officer to investigate the problem. A report is requested from the contributor and this is then followed up with the Authorities.



This data is analyzed and evaluated by Steven and Darryl of the SDCEA. These findings are highlighted to the MPP. You can view the data as formulated for report use on: <http://www2.nilu.no/airquality>



**Left:** The Bucket System used by the SDCEA to take air samples, to test chemicals that are released from the polluter's stacks. If you want to join his committee, please contact Hugo and Bongani on 031-461 1991.

**SDCEA**