Ethical Marine Mammal Tourism
Ponta do Ouro - Moçambique

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South African Marine Mammal Colloquium 18 to 21 May 2010
History

1994 - 1996
• Initial Interactions and Development of Dolphin EnCOUNTER Program
• Set the intension of a marine protected area

1997
• Establish Base Camp for staff & guests; purchase boat
• Establish informal MOU with UEM; NHM & initiate base line data collection & photo id

1999
Founder moves to PDO - interaction taken to a new level

2000/5
• Develop Dolphin Interaction/Research Center & Lifeguard Base
• Students UEM, establish turtle monitoring, Dolphin Reef Israel, Eyes on the Horizon

2007
• Establish relations with Peace Parks Foundation & MSR
• Attend the African MM Conference

2008/9
• DCA is sighted as standard practice (Guissamulo, 2007:34) (Stensland and Särnblad, 2007:39) (Berggren and Coles 2009:115)
• Contribution to Mozambique Turtle Report
• Interview for environmental program 50/50 in SA ‘Unsustainable Tourism in PDO’ – ‘World Heritage Site Status’
• First official Marine Mammal Tourism meeting held in PDO - PMPA proclaimed July 2009
• Official MOU signed with UEM & NHM
• National Directorate of Conservation Area’s project approval - Monitoring of Large Megafauna PDO – Santa Maria
• First draft of management plan released to stake holders (marine mammal tourism is recognized as an independent activity)

2010
• Carte Blanche program in SA
Cetaceans involved with scientific & eco-tourism value

FREQUENT
- Resident population of >200 Indian Ocean Bottlenose dolphins (2009 = 496)
- Small population <10 of Indo pacific humpback dolphins (2009 = 27 in association with bottlenose; 3 individual sightings)

OCCASIONAL
- Spinner dolphins (2009 = 10)
- Pan-tropical spotted dolphins (2009 = 3 in association with spinners)

SEASONABLE
- Humpback whale (2009 = 61)
- Southern right whale (2009 = 2)
"ethical marine mammal tourism"
contribution to science through eco-tourism

- Provides participants with non-intrusive educational experience
- Work within a framework of strict fieldwork ethics that includes a one boat operation, one boat guideline, 20 minute maximum ‘disturbance’ time
- A combination of attitudinal and methodological elements produce human behaviour that is consistent and predictable
- Employment of local community
- Supporting both local and foreign students
- Permanent base camp
- Collect multiple strands of data, photo, underwater video & sound
- Continued reporting to authorities
- Ongoing projects include beach clean-ups & strandings
- Follow a strict in-water code of conduct

a model for future and existing wild dolphin-swim-with activities within the Indian Ocean

DCA IN-WATER RULES
- No touching
- No chasing
- No diving down
- No erratic movements
- No shouting
- No swimming on top
- No flash photography
- No swimming <30 day olds
- No swimming whales

Encounters are guided
Comparing Interaction Quality Past & Present

2008 2nd permanent dolphin swim operator in PDO
Ocean Safari boom

Interaction class
A = >20 minute ~ intense conscious interaction includes
direct approach, come-backs and circle swimming
B = <20 minutes as above
C = <10 minutes
D = Pass through ~ resting and traveling
E = No water entry

Interaction class of dolphin swims
1999-2007 (n = 1667)

Interaction class of dolphin swims
2008 - 2010 (April) n = 1645

1999 to 2007 Class A, B, C = 70%
2008 to 2010 (April) Class A, B, C = 33%
**Locations vs Peak/Non Peak**

**Dolphin sighting locations**
1998 - 2010 (April) n = 1466

![Pie chart showing dolphin sighting locations with different areas labeled as A to H.]

**Dolphin sighting locations during Peak & non Peak times 2008 - 2010 (April) n = 1020**

![Bar chart showing percent distribution of dolphin sightings during peak and non-peak times across different areas labeled as A to H.]

- **A - Ponta Point**
- **B - Ponta bay & adjacent**
- **C - Preceding Malongane**
- **D - Malongane**
- **E - Madejanine**
- **F - Preceding Mamoli**
- **G - Mamoli**
- **H - Techobanine**

**High density areas**

- **Ponta do Ouro**
- **Maputoland MPA**
- **Techobanine**
- **Mamoli**
- **Madejanine**
- **Malongane**
- **Ponta**
- **Ponta Partial Marine Protected Area (PMPRA)** ~86km
Tourist Questionnaire 2009 - 2010 (April)  n = 742

Interaction type on launches with calves <6 months, 2009 - 2010 season – coincides with peak periods  December/March/April  n = 69

- A: 20+ mins intense 26%
- B: 10 - 20 mins intense 11%
- C: < 10 mins move off 3%
- D: Pass through 10%
- E: No water entry 10%

Boat leg at sighting, n = 1382

- N: 70%
- S: 30%

Country of residence

- Mozambique 71%
- South Africa 4%
- Other 21%
- NR 4%

Participants age

- under 15 18
- 16 - 20 35
- 21 - 31 21
- 31 - 40 18
- 41 - 51 9
- 51 plus 6
- NR 7

Category of tourist

- Eco-tour 28
- Once casual 70
- NR 2

NR: Not Relevant

December/March/April – peak periods

N: Normal

S: Special

NR: Not Relevant
Issues - actions - future

Issues
➤ Habitat destruction
➤ Tourism growth - too many operators offering dolphin swims / no formal code of conduct / jetski & recreational boating activities
➤ Mozambique does not hold any gazetted marine mammals tourism regulations
➤ Fishing sector

Actions
➤ Regulate dolphin-swim-with activities
➤ Promote the DCA in-water code of conduct and boat operating procedures when in the company of marine mammals

Future
➤ Cross border monitoring of trans border species
➤ Establish additional basecamp within the PPMR to monitor northern home range of *Tursiops & Sousa*
Can you help me?

THANK YOU