

# NELSON MANDELA

## UNIVERSITY

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25.11.2020

To whom it may concern;

I understand Algoa Bay might be considered as a Whale Heritage Site in the near future. As Director of the Marine Apex Predator Research Unit (MAPRU- <https://mapru.mandela.ac.za/>) at Nelson Mandela University my team is actively engaged in research on megafauna in Algoa Bay as it offers an incredible diversity and abundance of both seabirds and cetaceans. During most of our field trips to sea, sightings of whales, primarily humpback whales, are common highlighting Algoa Bay as an important habitat for these and a number of other whale species.

The recent declaration of an extensive Marine Protected Area within Algoa Bay (Greater Addo MPA) is already a significant step towards ensuring protected habitat for cetaceans that in all likelihood will lead to a further increase in their numbers in the Bay in the near future. These fantastic creatures are providing ideal opportunities for post-graduate students at Nelson Mandela University to do research projects on- with easy launching and access opportunities. Furthermore, a number of tourism initiatives and livelihoods revolve around cetaceans in Algoa Bay, allowing for job creation and social upliftment opportunities with Port Elizabeth.

Based on the above, I would be very supportive of the initiative to have Algoa Bay declared a Whale Heritage Site which would both serve a conservation-related function and serve to bring needed public attention to the importance of this region for cetaceans.



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Please feel free to contact me should you have any queries regarding the above.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pistorius', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Prof P.A. Pistorius

