



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay SOUTH AFRICA

Action Plan

First report 15 June 2022



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay, South Africa

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Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay. South Africa

Background

Raggy Charters/The Baywatch Project a WCA Partner, and all others involved in Marine Conservation and the city of Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), namely:

Enviro Quest/Algoa Bay Conservation,
SANPARKS (South African National Parks)
SST (Sustainable Seas Trust),
SANCCOB (Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds),
Bayworld PE,
NRF/SAEON
Algoa Bay Project and One Ocean Hub
WESSA (the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa),
ABOS (Algoa Bay Ocean Stewards)
Nelson Mandela Bay Tourism,
Nelson Mandela Bay University,
Addo Tourism,
The Tourism Coach,
The Port Elizabeth Metro B&B Association,
ProDive
SPAR Eastern Cape

All of whom have worked hard in tourism and conservation for many years and are extremely happy to have Algoa Bay recognised as a Whale Heritage Site on 16 June 2021. The 5th Site in the World after Hervey Bay in Australia; Tenerife-La Gomera Marine area in Southwest Tenerife, Spain; Dana Point, California US, and the Bluff in Durban, South Africa. We look forward to working together as a community to keep this prestigious title.

“Established by the World Cetacean Alliance (WCA), Whale Heritage Sites aim to increase the protection and conservation of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) and their habitats while contributing to sustainable livelihoods, the arts, science and education. Whale Heritage Site status will be granted to those places around the world where cetaceans are celebrated through art, education, research and cultural events; where sustainable practices and livelihoods are continually improved to ensure the health of cetacean habitats and the long-term economic health of human communities; and where respectful coexistence with cetaceans is supported through law, policy, and cooperation. Whale Heritage Sites (WHS) are high sea or coastal marine areas, and less often freshwater rivers and lakes, where cetaceans live, and their associated land areas. WHS will be identified against criteria that interweave natural and cultural elements and acknowledge critical places that, for reasons of physical and social geography, are sites where people can coexist with cetaceans in an authentic and respectful way.”



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay, South Africa

Steering Committee

It did not take much persuasion to get the following organisation representatives to join Raggy Charters and form a Steering Committee to get the application together and to support this venture. The committee is a group of likeminded people with the same regard to conservation and the protection of our local resources for the better of our community. Working well together with the same goals in mind.

Raggy Charters / The Baywatch Project	Lloyd Edwards (Chairman)
	Jake Keeton
	Purity Khosa
	Karen Keeton
Algoa Bay Conservation / Enviro Quest	Ronelle Friend
Pro Dive South Africa	Louis Van Aardt
Nelson Mandela University	Prof. Pierre Pistorius (Zoology Dept)
	Prof. Rose Boswell (NRF Chair for Ocean Cultures & Heritage)
	Dr Jessica Thornton (assistant to Prof. Rose Boswell)
South African National Parks	Evans Mkansi (Conservation Manager)



Action Plan

We are proud to be awarded this prestigious title and will do all in our power to keep the status for as long as possible and to live up to the expectations of such a site. We aim to adhere to the guidelines set out to us by WHS to: Encourage respectful Human and Cetacean Coexistence, Celebrate cetaceans, Environmental, social, and economic sustainability, Research, education, and awareness.

This plan will list current projects to meet the above guidelines and give a base line/thought train for new and upcoming projects. This report will be updated annually to note progress. The all-round coming together of these different entities shows how much Algoa Bay means to all.

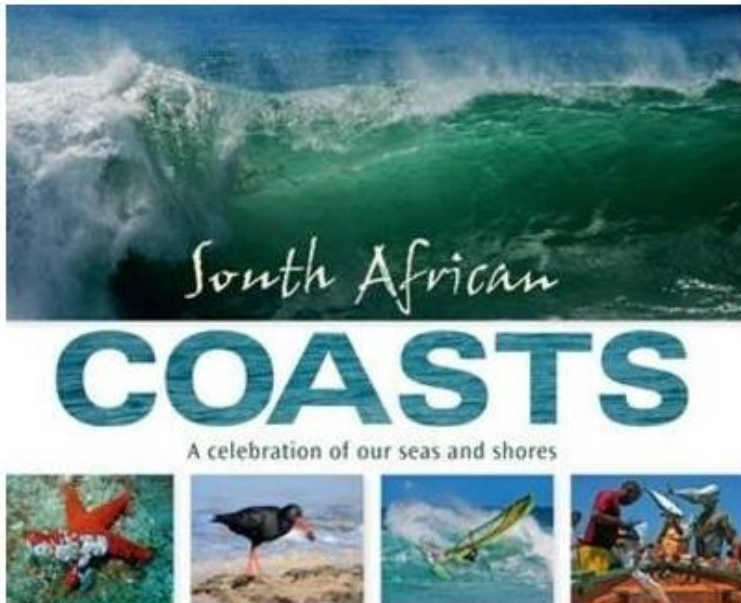


Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay, South Africa

Cultural Heritage

To encourage the local community to understand and feel a connection to cetaceans we want to make it known and educate about the link between the indigenous people of the Eastern Cape and Cetaceans. Once there is a connection, this will grow into a co-existence, and we believe people's perspective on conservation of the cetaceans and all marine life in Algoa Bay will improve vastly.

The Cultural Heritage of the area has been a focus for quite a few years but now being a heritage site has brought all previous publications to the fore and started new. It's wonderful to refresh and bring new thought to this subject.



This book (published in 2014) showcases the very best of photography (as judged in the Sustainable Seas Trust 2013/14 competition), accompanied by illuminating essays from leading scientists, sports people and others whose lives are intimately connected with the seas.

One particular essay by Tony Dold and Michelle Cocks of Rhodes University is relevant to cultural heritage called:

'My goat that produces white kids'

It is about the earliest written record of indigenous people's interaction with the sea along the Eastern Cape coast, that of European shipwreck survivors from the seventeenth century. Many survivors undertook epic journeys on foot along the coast where they met with the San, Khoikhoi and Nguni people, and later wrote down their observations and experiences. These records show that historically the amaXhosa people inhabited the coast and made use of its resources. An interesting read indeed.

The University have been working hard and done a lot of research on this subject and have accomplished a lot in the last year or 2. With Prof Rose Boswell and Dr Jessica Thornton having published the following writings:

THE CULTURAL VALUATION OF THE OCEANS AND COASTS: ALGOA BAY

Compiled from multiple reports written from 2020 to 2022

INCLUDING THE KHOISAN FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE BLUE ECONOMY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Journal of the Indian Ocean Region: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19480881.2021.1935523>



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay, South Africa

During Heritage Month Prof Boswell and her team also hosted a few webinars with the main focus being Legislating Marine Tangible Cultural Heritage in South Africa:

NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY



Coastal and Marine Research

*Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR)
Heritage Month Webinar Series*

Legislating Marine Intangible Cultural Heritage in South Africa

Professor Rose Boswell

This presentation proposes that the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999 insufficiently provides for the recognition and protection of marine intangible cultural heritage (MICH) in South Africa. To facilitate the discussion, two other laws (the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003 and the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act 2008) and various international agreements are considered. The principal argument is that NHRA does not provide for MICH, a situation with important implications for communities under pressure to accept offshore development projects and for coastal development entities seeking to embed inclusive business practices. Secondary arguments in the paper include the importance of MICH to cultural rights, the importance of including less visible and less vocal stakeholder groups in oceans management processes; the presence of environmental holism in Khoi-San concept of the sea and the existence of a dynamic intangible heritage field in South Africa. The article concludes with proposed amendments to NHRA, the Protected Areas Act and the Integrated Coastal Management Act and recommendations to offshore development entities.

Date: 1 September 2021**Time:** 13:00-14:00**Platform:** Zoom



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay, South Africa

In March 2022: Ocean Connections Project and Multimedia Exhibition

The exhibition was organised by Hub early-career researchers Mia Strand (Nelson Mandela University, South Africa) and Nina Rivers (Nelson Mandela University, South Africa) together with Rachel Baasch (Curator of the exhibition). With a follow-up workshop being organised by Nina Rivers, Bernadette Snow (Strathclyde University, UK) and Mia Strand and assisted by Denning Metuge (University of South Africa) and Loylah (Chilo) Nonyane (Nelson Mandela University).

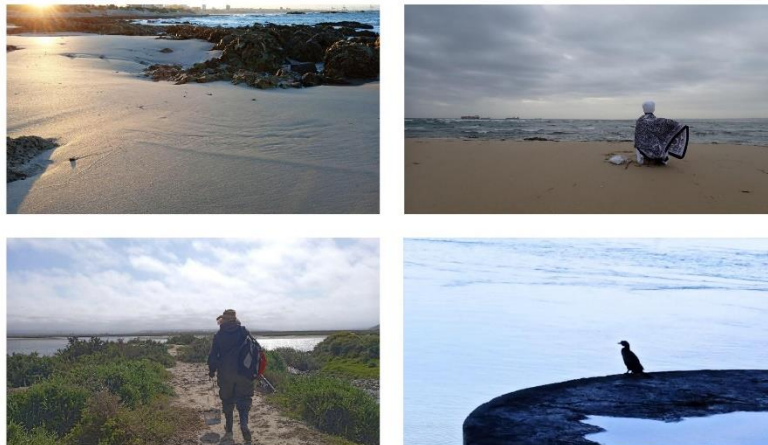
Capturing a great feeling of communities working and pulling together for the good of all.



YOU ARE INVITED

Ocean Connections - A Multimedia Exhibition

24-31 March 2022, South End Museum, Gqeberha



Multimedia exhibition: An exhibition where indigenous and local knowledge holders share their ocean and coastal knowledge, and sometimes places of cultural significance, along the coast in Algoa Bay through photographs and stories. The exhibition will be interactive and invite participants to share their ideas of how indigenous and local knowledge should inform coastal and marine management in South Africa.



To take get a closer look at the Ocean Connections and the Exhibition:

<https://oneoceanhub.org/ocean-connections-a-multimedia-exhibition/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-499UAZC3d0>



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay, South Africa

Community Engagement and Creating Awareness about Marine Life in Algoa Bay

1. Education

Our aim is to share as much knowledge as we can regarding our oceans and the marine life that is critical to our survival. Aiming at the youth who are becoming more and more conscious of the importance of doing so. Together with WESSA, Raggy Charters have and will be visiting many schools in the area to reach and educate as many children as possible. Running school projects and tasks with reward of a cruise with Raggy Charters out into Algoa Bay. No better place to learn than to experience and see the marine life in the wild. Bayworld PE, SANCCOB, NRF/SAEON and SANPARKS Addo Elephant National Park run wonderful education programmes reaching many youths annually. To collaborate on these education programs will benefit all. These programs can only grow.

We would like to encourage BBWW protocols as set out by the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment and the World Cetacean Alliance, be taught to other marine activity related people/industries, fishing charters, yacht club members, ski boat club members, paddle ski enthusiasts, open water swimmers, jet ski owners. To respect the boundaries of cetacean interaction which often happens in Algoa Bay. The cetaceans often come close to shore and often milling and surfing in amongst these people:

To do: A brochure poster made public for visitors to read on cetacean interaction conduct at tourism office.

Raggy Charters hold informative talks open to the public, free of charge, about the wonderful and often unusual sightings that have been experienced in Algoa Bay, about current concerns and Baywatch Projects that need input and support from the local community. The Raggy Charters Guides give lectures to the University Tourism Students on Marine Tourism. They recently met with Rhodes University Environmental Sociology Post Grad Students with great feedback:

“Firstly, I would like to once again express my gratitude for accommodating the Rhodes students yesterday. The experience was definitely worth the trip down from Grahamstown and has already proven fruitful in many regards. Myself and the rest of the students present found Jake’s talk to not only be insightful, but useful through its relevance to our course work on waste management and the relationship between the environment and society”

This interactive program will be broadened and done more often during the upcoming year, as the Covid-19 pandemic settles into a new norm and allows for such with students and scholars

Links to Ocean Educational programmes in Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth)

<https://www.raggycharters.co.za/page/education>

<https://www.bayworld.co.za/fun-and-learning>

<https://sanccob.co.za/projects/educational-programmes/>

<https://education.saeon.ac.za/>

<http://www.parks.it/world/ZA/addo.elephant/Eedu.html>

Internship programmes:

<https://www.raggycharters.co.za/page/nelson-mandela-university>

<https://wessa.org.za/our-work/sustainable-tourism/tourism-blue-flag/>

<https://www.raggycharters.co.za/page/wessa>



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay, South Africa

2. Welcoming the Whales Festival

CELEBRATION OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE WHALES
IN ALGOA BAY
SAT 16 JUN 2018
PINE LODGE • FROM 9AM

FREE ADMISSION • FAMILY FUN
ACTIVITIES • WHALE SPOTTING • WHALE ART MARKET
KIDS ACTIVITIES • BEACH WALKS • WHALE DISPLAYS
WHALE MOVIES • WHALE RESEARCH.

Logos at the bottom include: nelson mandela bay MUNICIPALITY, nelson mandela bay TOURISM, Raggy Charters, Algoa Bay, WCA, SANCCOB, WESSA, der expo, pine lodge, BAYWORLD, magnetic storm, PRINTING KATZ CAMERAS.

WELCOMING THE WHALES TO ALGOA BAY FESTIVAL 2022

Raggy Charters

thewillows
RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTRE

4TH JUNE 2022 09H00 - 16H00 (LIVE MUSIC & BAR OPEN TO 19H00)
Admission Fee: R10pp (Pensioners and children u10yrs are free)
Donations to Conservation and Performers Welcome

Whale Migration & Entanglements Presentations • Guest Speaker chatting about Dolphin Intelligence
• Tourism Expo and Whale Related Exhibitions by Environmental NPO's & Groups
• Recycling educational activity • Intertidal Educational Walk • Various Tours
• Raggy Charters Sunrise Cruise • Fun activities for children
• Live Music by Local Artists • Food Stalls & Bar

<https://www.raggycharters.co.za/article/welcoming-the-whales-2022>

The first Welcoming the Whales Festival, initiated by Raggy Charters, Baywatch Conservation Projects, private companies and NGOs, was hosted on Saturday 16th June 2018 at the Pine Lodge Resort and Conference Centre, Algoa Bay. The aim of the festival is to bring the people of Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) together and educate them about these magnificent animals and the importance of them to our oceans as well as to the economy of the Eastern Cape. This festival has grown in the short period of 4 years even though the last two festivals were hindered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 2022 festival was held on 4th June 2022 at The Willows Resort, a spectacular and very fitting new venue. The response and support going beyond our expectations and making us all very excited to host the next one in 2023. This year's festival kicked off the first of 30 Festivals/Celebrations/Talks for the annual Southern African West and East Humpback Whale Migration Routes.

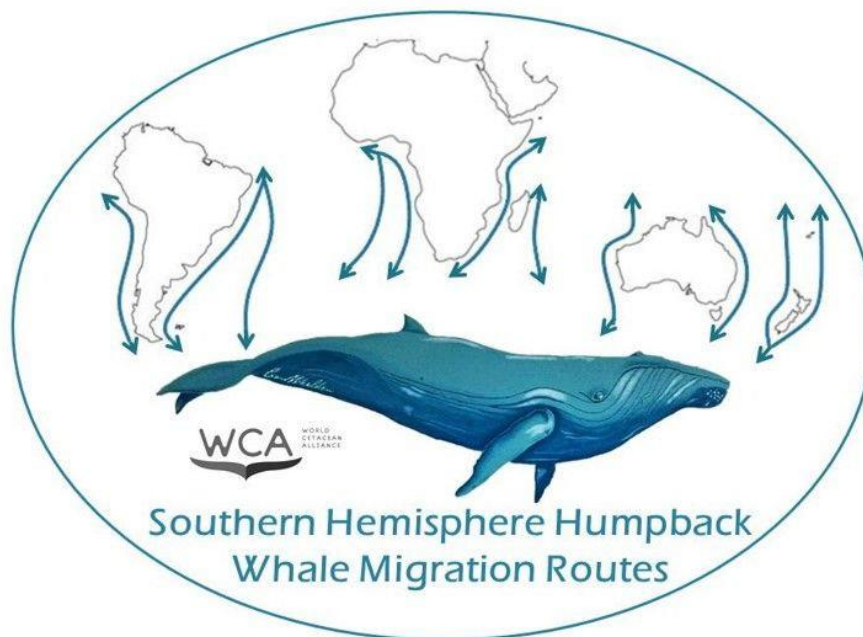


Southern African Humpback Whale Migration Route

3. Humpback Whale Migration Route – *(a future for Tourism?)*

The humpback migration route was not on the map until recently. This being the biggest migration and should be recognised as such.

After initiating the first festival here in Port Elizabeth in 2018, Lloyd Edwards then took it further and when visiting Australia and New Zealand in 2019 discussed the idea of celebrating a Southern Hemisphere Humpback Whale Migration Route. Which was received well and will hopefully become a reality in the near future.



Until that is up and running with assistance from the countries involved, Lloyd and the Raggy Charters team have worked on the Southern African East Humpback Whale Migration Route in 2020. In 2021 this grew and became the Southern African West and East Humpback Whale Migration Route. With 2020 having 17 Festivals/Educational Talks, 2021 having 24 events and now 30 events in 2022. These events will grow, we hope as much as the Port Elizabeth event and eventually be recognised worldwide. Thus encouraging a possible Humpback Whale Migration Tourism Route in Africa and then the rest of the World.

To see this years celebratory map:

<https://www.raggycharters.co.za/page/southern-hemisphere-humpback-whale-migration-route-shhwmr>



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay, South Africa

4. Spekboom Whale Project & Humewood Beach Ocean Themed Mural

Lloyd Edwards, *chairman of the WHS Algoa Bay Steering Committee, Owner of Raggy Charters, Project Manager for the Baywatch Project* and chairman of the Eastern Cape Dendrological Society, and as such is dedicated to promoting the knowledge, protection and propagation of trees and the preservation of tree-dominated ecosystems as a contribution to effective environmental conservation and improvement in South Africa. Raggy Charters promise to plant at least one tree for every boat cruise done, in order to offset our carbon footprint. Every guest is briefed on this project and other projects running currently before they enjoy a cruise to explore and find the marine life in Algoa Bay. To get guests and the community more involved we have started an initiative where each guest will receive a spekboom to plant either in their garden or that of family or friends, at the guest house/ B&B they may be staying at or in a designated site on the Gqeberha beachfront. The proposed site was approved by the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality on 18 August 2021 and we are very excited to prepare the area and get planting in November 2021.



The community come together for planting day



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay. South Africa

We look forward to sharing regular updates on the “growth” of the Spekboom Whale Garden. Signage sponsored by Orb Signs and will be up soon.

WHALE HERITAGE SITE
CERTIFIED BY WORLD CETACEAN ALLIANCE

ALGOA SPEKBOOM WHALE A PROUD COMMUNITY PROJECT

This whale was planted in commemoration of Algoa Bay being declared
a Whale Heritage site on 16th June 2021

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND OFFSETTING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

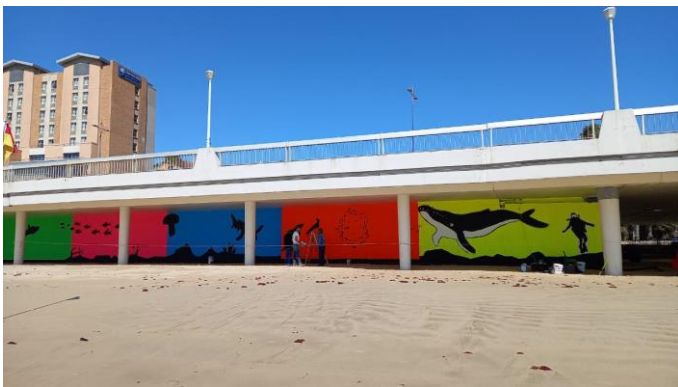
This plant helps to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by acting like a carbon sponge, improving the quality of air we breathe. More specifically, spekboom can absorb between four to ten tons of carbon per hectare. This incredible tree uses carbon to make plant tissue and produce oxygen. According to The Spekboom Foundation, spekboom’s capacity to offset harmful carbon emissions is compared to that of moist, subtropical forests.

Thank you to all community members who have come together to make this project happen

TO CRUISE OUT INTO ALGOA BAY CONTACT RAGGY CHARTERS 073 152 2277

Another community project to be enjoyed by all is the Humewood Beach Wall Mural initiated by the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality and is almost complete. The committee would like to add the WHS logo to this mural. We hope to achieve a city that is ‘ocean aware’ and all to be proud of Algoa Bay.

Humewood Beach Ocean Themed Mural - a work in progress





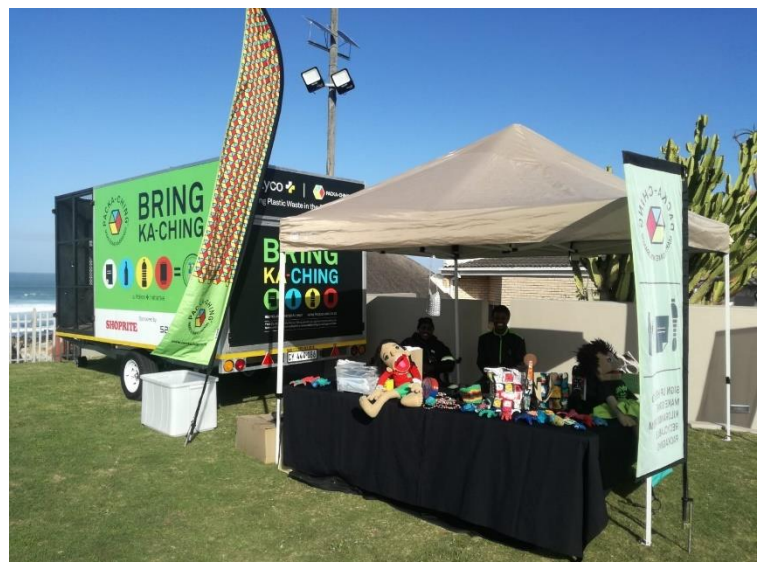
Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay, South Africa

5. Recycling and Single Use Plastic

Together with SPAR Eastern Cape we are tackling the importance of manufacturers stopping the production and use of single use plastic – this is a mammoth task and in the meantime all education programs include teaching about the detrimental effect of single use plastics on the environment. to discourage purchase and usage and encourage the recycling of single use plastics by the community.



The Waste Trade Company joined the Welcoming of the Whales Festival to educate all visitors on how they can contribute and assist:



To read more about the Waste Trade Company and their education programme:

<https://www.thewastetradecompany.co.za/>

<https://www.thewastetradecompany.co.za/schools-project>



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay, South Africa

Conservation Projects

Raggy Charters together with Algoa Bay Conservation

1. Live Shark Project

After public talks and running a petition and getting Governments attention we await the final answer and solution to this problem.

<https://www.raggycharters.co.za/page/live-shark-project>

2. Ship to Ship Bunkering and the decline of the endangered African Penguin

This project is on-going, and the urgency is becoming more and more apparent as with each tour we are seeing less and less African penguins on St Croix Island, once the biggest breeding colony is South Africa. An Oil Spill **hotline** has been set up and with the assistance of Environmental Scientist, Ronelle Friend of Algoa Bay Conservation, Retiree Mr Mike Bellis, who is monitoring ship activity and bunkering barges in Algoa Bay, Dr Lorien Pichegru of CMR and Yeouns Attorneys with the legalities of all, we hope to meet with our Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy as soon as possible. Lloyd has approached Minister Creecy with an invitation to cruise and experience Algoa Bay first hand, invitation has been acknowledged. We hope for a positive outcome from the Minister.

<https://www.raggycharters.co.za/page/sts-bunkering-vs-endangered-african-penguin>

3. Whale Entanglements

This is a new project that has been on the cards and is now underway, the petition is out, and Lloyd is spreading the word at each and every of the 30 Welcoming the Whales Celebrations around the country between now and mid-August 2022.

<https://www.raggycharters.co.za/page/whale-entanglements>



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay, South Africa

Coastal Marine Research Nelson Mandela University and Algoa Bay Project

Working on different aspects of the bay, but together forms one: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/Research-cts>

The **CMR Audio Project** endeavours to introduce CMR members, the University community, national and international stakeholders, and the public to key players of the CMR and various aspects of CMR research, through various recordings of interviews. You can listen to all the interviews on our Youtube channel **CMR_MandelaUni**.

<https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/Research-Projects/CMR-Audio-Project>

THE ALGOA BAY PROJECT

The **Algoa Bay project** was established in 2017 at Nelson Mandela University within the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR) as a platform to support multidisciplinary research linked to ocean conservation and sustainable use.

The Algoa Bay Project currently supports **six multidisciplinary projects** with both national and international collaborators. These projects use Algoa Bay as their area of focus, using stakeholder driven research linked to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), ocean governance, climate change response, ocean management, valuation of the ocean (ocean accounting) and systems dynamics modeling.

1. **The Community of Practice: Towards a Marine Spatial Plan for Algoa Bay**, funded by the NRF consists of two phases. Phase 1 aims to collect data on and model the biophysical and governance systems in Algoa Bay. Phase 2 aims to address the socio-economic system and tie all three systems together in an overall model that can inform marine spatial planning decisions in the Bay.
2. **One Ocean Hub project** is an independent programme for collaborative research for development, funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). The Hub is a community of scholars from 22 leading international Universities and Research Centres from the UK, South Africa, Ghana, Namibia, Kenya, the South Pacific and the Caribbean and aims to transform our response to the urgent challenges facing our ocean.
3. **Marine Research and Innovation for a Sustainable management of Coasts and Oceans (MARISCO)**. Working with four partners from four continents, MARISCO will globally address the multilayered interactions between biodiversity change and Natures Contribution to People. MARISCO combines interdisciplinary approaches to data synthesis in globally distributed, well-monitored regions, with modelling of positive and negative feedback mechanisms between different aspects of biodiversity and NCP.
4. **A new Community of Practice – Ocean Accounts Framework project** has started this year (2020) and is funded by the NRF. This project aims to assess the applicability of the ocean-accounts framework (OAF) in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) as a central component of a wider strategy to ensure that ocean governance contributes optimally to the sustainable goals of South Africa.
5. **Cities & Climate Change in Coastal Western Indian Ocean (CICLICO)** aims to work with stakeholders working with area-based management tools (ABMs) such as Integrated Coastal Management, Marine Protected Areas and Marine Spatial Planning on a daily basis. The aim is to investigate how these different instruments work together in order to identify gaps and barriers that can be addressed by climate services.
6. **Marine Spatial Planning Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean Region (MSP Strategy- WIO)**.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes can provide useful frameworks to assist planning and management of different activities in coastal and marine areas. The countries of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region have developed and adopted MSP approaches for different purposes and therefore the level of implementation also varies .

<https://www.algoabayproject.com/>

Research Projects					
Select project for more information					
Algoa Bay MSP	Ocean Accounts Framework	CICLICO	WIO - MSP	One Ocean Hub	MARISCO
NRF Communities of Practice	WIOMSA	UNEP	UKRI	Belmont Forum	



Whale Heritage Site Algoa Bay. South Africa

Conclusion

The title of Whale Heritage Site - Algoa Bay is bringing together institutions who have been working towards the same goal – but apart. It is wonderful to see these institutions and the community becoming more and more involved and interested in preserving Algoa Bay and its Marine Life, which is extremely important. Being a Whale Heritage Site and a Marine Protected Area (<https://www.sanparks.org/mpa/addo-marine-protected-area.php>) gives us great leverage when trying to get headway with the Government and the Conservation Projects.

The projects will all continue and we will do our best to live up to this prestigious title and honour all as requested from World Cetacean Alliance.

Thank you on behalf of The Steering Committee
15 June 2022