

Cultural importance of cetaceans

Q42 2.1 Wild cetaceans are reflected in culture through historical or contemporary practices that harness a greater appreciation for living cetaceans in their natural habitats. Do you wish to meet the requirements of criterion 2.1? **Yes**

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Q43 Please describe any historical and/or contemporary practices involving cetaceans which are of cultural significance to people within the proposed WHS? 200 word limit

We celebrated the Welcoming of the Whales Festival 3 consecutive years. The festival focus on education of Cetaceans, Marine Life, Eco Tourism, Recycling and general protection of our Ocean. Please see related pictures attached.

The old whaling station located in the Bluff used to be one of the largest whaling stations in the Southern hemisphere. Whaling started in 1907 all the way through to 1975, using harpoon guns. The whaling station then moved to the seaward side of the Bluff because of the bad smell that saturated the area and for bather safety from sharks that were attracted by the blood that flowed during flensing. In a way, whaling was a cultural practice for people whose livelihoods depended on it. Emanating from this grim past, there is now a change towards conservation practices and celebration of cetaceans and their bounce back.

Q44 Define how these practices harness a greater appreciation for living cetaceans and their natural habitats? 200 word limit

Local Awareness has increased through this annual festival. Awareness of cetaceans as well as awareness of the impact we have on our environment.

More and more businesses and groups are getting involved in beach clean-ups and recycling. Always looking for ways to protect our cetaceans.

People appreciate the deep history of the practices that occurred just off their front yards. Many of the local residents have family and friends that once worked at or remembered the Old Whaling Station it is a piece of history still very much entrenched in the Bluff community. Given the remarkable recovery of the humpback whale population since whaling ended, people feel a connection with them. Please refer to our WILDOCEANS facebook page/WESSA - We take part in International Coastal Clean-up every year. WILDOCEANS has permanent teams in the Durban Port. As well as partner organisations:

<https://www.ecr.co.za/shows/east-coast-breakfast/help-clean-up-umgeni-river-with-the-litterboom-project-and-wildlands/>

[https://www.facebook.com/Durbanitesagainstspollution/posts/239697964395625?](https://www.facebook.com/Durbanitesagainstspollution/posts/239697964395625?comments_id=2397341883920028&comment_tracking=%7B%22th%22%3A%22R%22%7D)

[comments_id=2397341883920028&comment_tracking=%7B%22th%22%3A%22R%22%7D](https://www.facebook.com/Durbanitesagainstspollution/posts/239697964395625?comments_id=2397341883920028&comment_tracking=%7B%22th%22%3A%22R%22%7D)

<https://www.twitter.com/cleansurfrj?lang=en>

<https://facebook.com/KznBeachCleanup/>

Q45 List any museums, visitor centres, art galleries etc. that showcase either historical or contemporary practices involving people and cetaceans.

Durban Maritime Museum - gives insight to Durban's Whaling Period. A period that should never be forgotten and never repeated. The Maritime Museum also offers interesting displays of the Durban Harbour History.

Sodurba Tourism Information Office situated on the Bluff displays "Echo" - an art piece (Whale) made from recycled bottle tops. We also have on display glass Whale Tales and whale key rings made by local crafters.

On the c/o Marine Drive and Gray's Inn Road displays "Destiny" (Whale) - another art piece made from bottletops on a aluminum frame. Both art pieces were made by local artists and art students on school level.

Local crafters offer their products for sale at the festival market - Cetacean Related products.

Bluff Whaling Station Heritage Site - The old derelict buildings offer interesting tours. These tours are led by people who were personally connected to the Station - some working there and some with ancestor's connections.

Our Vision of Sodurba is to have the Whaling Station declared as a formal Heritage Site and turned into a formal museum, creating an international tourism attraction.

During our Welcoming of the Whales festival we also have locals showcasing their art skills in sand - building beautiful Whale Sand Sculptures.

Please see Related Pictures attached.

Q47 2.2 Cetacean-related festivals, ceremonies, meetings or other events that encourage a sense of pride, heritage, history, sustainability, and legacy are held annually. Do you wish to meet the requirements of criterion 2.2?

Yes

Page 20: Criteria in detail - criterion 2.2

Q48 List all annual cetacean-related festivals, ceremonies, meetings, or other events. Include start and end dates where appropriate.

At the end on June each year we celebrate the Welcoming of the Whales. During this festival we have a ceremony on the beach, including local surfers doing a paddle out, while a poem is read. The poem was written by a local, to Welcome the Whales and informing them (and us) they are safe.

Sodurba Community Tourism organisation has also recently registered this destination as the Kwa-Zulu Natal Whale Coast - this will further create and encourage a sense of pride, leaving behind a legacy. The KZN Whale Coast is a Sodurba registered Trade Mark with Republic of South Africa Registrar of Trade Marks - Please see Document attached.

Q49 Describe these events, highlighting their key benefits in terms of encouraging a sense of pride, heritage, history, sustainability, and legacy. 300 word limit

The Welcoming of the Whales celebrations run over 3 days.

1st day - Wine Tasting and Fashion Show. To thank the community and local businesses for their support and sponsorships.

2nd day - The Festival with a focus on environmental friendly educational activities, for adults and children. A Treasure Hunt that is all about the Treasures in our Ocean and Beach. An Arts and Craft Market with local food.

Sports activities on the beach between local and outside sport clubs - giving communities the opportunity to experience the beach that would otherwise never see the beach.

3rd day - Tour to the Old Whaling Station. A Heritage site with so much history. A history that should be shared with generations to come to ensure it will never be repeated again.

All these events have the aim to encourage a sense of pride, building a heritage to generations to come, remembering the history and leaving a legacy behind.

Building a sustainable environment.

2017 was our 1st festival and saw approximately 1000 foot traffic on the day.

2018 with the 2nd festival saw approximately 3000 foot traffic on the day.

20019 with our 3rd festival saw approximately 6000 foot traffic on the day.

Each year our Cheese and Wine evenings are fully booked with 250 people in 2019 and our Whaling Station Tours also fully booked with 100 in 2019.

Q51 2.3 Cetacean-related works of art are created, including in music, dance, and theatre; the visual arts, and in literature, from both written and spoken traditions. Do you wish to meet the requirements of criterion 2.3?

Yes

Q52 Please describe any cetacean-related works of art that are created at the proposed site, such as music, dance, and theatre, the visual arts, and literature. 300 word limit

Our 1st ever Poem to celebrate the arrival of the Whales was written in 2019, welcoming them to our coastline, where they are safe and wishing them a safe journey. Please see document attached.

Artists and designers have created Whale Structures - Echo is on display at the Tourism Information Office (Picture attached) and Destiny is on display on the corner of Gray's Inn Road and Marine Drive. Please refer to paper clippings of Destiny attached.

A local artist painted a beautiful Mural - Please see Paper Clipping attached on Mural Art in Airlie Road View Site . Sodurba plans on getting more Mural Art Pieces in WHS.

Destiny was a collaboration between local artists and scholars from Eden College - A school with a Green Status. Please see document attached.

Art pieces are being designed for the land based view sites. We have identified 9 possible view sites in WHS. These sites will each tell a story relating to our cetaceans with Information & Educational Boards, A Whale Tale Bench and maybe even a telescope.

WILDOCEANS will provide Whale Time Guides to be present to complete the experience. Please see pictures and proposals attached for 3 of the View Sites.

Local artists create and perform their own music and dance, before and during the 2019 Whale festival.

Productions by WILDOCEANS Change Agents, celebrating and educate schools in the WHS about the whale migration

View finder boards in the land-based view sites have been proposed by the Municipality of Durban.