

i. **BOATBASED WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING**

a. **Isle of Capri**

- i. We, as the BBWDW permit holder, in Durban are advertising the Whale watching route, to encourage people to visit the Bluff viewing sites before or after they visit us. The main idea is to make the local people aware of the importance of sustainable whale watching, this way, they are also looking out for people that might pose a danger to the health and safety of the whales. We encourage our visitors to become Whale and Dolphin Watching ambassadors.
- ii. We have a Whale watching WhatsApp group where the members help us to spot whales. This group is working very effectively and is growing every day. Articles of whales are shared and this has lead to more awareness.
- iii. Boat based whale and dolphin watching advertising is getting a huge amount of advertising and awareness in the local and international tourism industry and that way the heritage site is also getting international acknowledgment. We, as Isle of Capri Cruises, are advertising in Get Your Guide, they are an international booking forum for adventures around the world and we have had quite a few bookings from abroad due to their marketing.
- iv. The Isle of Capri Cruises, makes good use of the tour guides that are trained by the Whaletime / WILDOCEANS guide training project. Their practical experience and working knowledge is broadened by the exposure going on our boats and their public talking skills is also improved. **However this season we haven't had a lot of tours, due to Lockdown and Covid19.**
- v. We are getting awareness to the public about the situation of the gross negligence and pollution in our oceans and by continuously getting them to look at the oceans to spot the whales or dolphins.
- vi. We are also affiliating to SABBWWA that gives us information and assists in the responsible and eco-friendly interaction with the Whales, Sharks and Dolphins. The members share their immense experience with the group on WhatsApp. In this way we as a permit holder can get continuous advice from other Permit holders.
- vii. We were planning to participated in a Whale awareness program and competition for the local schools with WILDOCEANS ,but due to Covid 19 and the schools that was

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closed for most of the year this did not happen. We are planning to do this in the future again.

**viii. Recommendations:**

1. Staff exchange visit with seasoned responsible whale watching business in South Africa.
  - Isle of Capri Cruises ( Durban ) , Advantage Tours and Charters ( St Lucia ) and Richards bay Advantage Tours have been working closely since 2010
  - Isle of Capri Cruises and Whale and Dolphin Tours did exchange staff this last season.
2. Joining one or more eco label certification programmes.
  - Eco Mark Africa ( **Due to Lockdown and Covid 19 nothing realised** )
3. Continuing the process of guides training through the WILDOCEANS programme.
  - Whale Guides from Whaletime on every Whale and Dolphin Watching trip
4. Encouraging further scientific output by granting academic students access to whale watch boats as platforms, or engaging in citizen science projects linked to ongoing research such as that carried out by WILDOCEANS.
  - Internships for Tourism Students of UKZN
  - Encouraging Local Tourists and Communities to become Whale Ambassadors
  - Educating all our staff about Whale Watching and taking them also on tours ,so that they can become ambassadors themselves and also give information to clients that comes for other trips.
5. Encouraging further engagement between whale watching businesses and local community members, such as free trips for local schools.
  - Discounted/free trips for Whale watchers/spotters group
  - Educational trips for schools
  - Giving scholars pamphlets with information on Whales and other marine life.
6. Collaborative projects run by both whale watching businesses in partnership.

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- Regular meetings
- Policing Durban Coastline and reporting to local authorities

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