

WILDOCEANS is the marine programme of the **WILDTRUST** (Wildlands Conservation Trust www.wildlands.co.za), a Southern African non-profit, non-government organisation.

Our vision is a “Sustainable Future for All”. By working at the critical interface between environmental conservation and socio-economic advancement, the **WILDTRUST** aims to support resilient ecosystems through the development and facilitation of innovative solutions, which promote social inclusiveness and sustainable development.

WILDOCEANS conservation, research and socio-economic activities are focussed on improving biodiversity knowledge, building science capacity, creating awareness of threats to the oceans, encouraging citizen science participation, increasing protection of the marine environment, and promoting sustainable resource use and resilience of coastal communities.

KEY WILDOCEANS PROGRAMMES

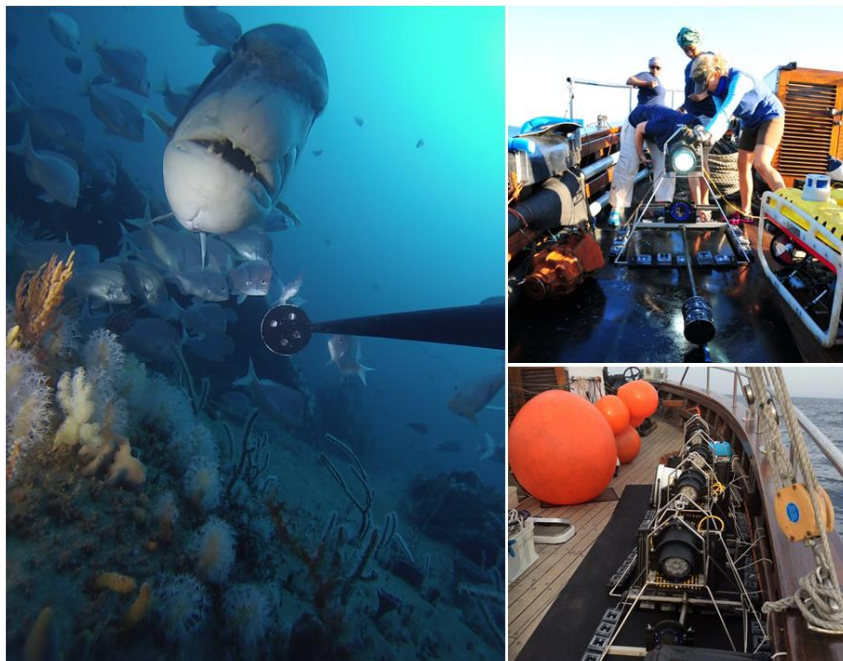
The **OCEAN STEWARDS** program is a capacity-building initiative launched in 2015 that provides young marine science students with an experiential journey and gives them unique insights into marine conservation. It aims to inspire them to continue in the marine science field, and support them to do so. Ocean Stewards participate in annual offshore research cruises, where they use equipment provided by the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme’s (ACEP) research platform and work closely alongside scientists. The goals of this program are: 1) emergence of a strong cohort of passionate marine conservation scientists, 2) strategic placement of informed and committed individuals in key decision-making, communication and policy development positions in government, non-profit, academic and environmental management organisations, and 3) a supportive network of connected individuals focussed on supporting a sustainable blue economy. A fellowship of over 50 students from 5 Universities have participated to date.



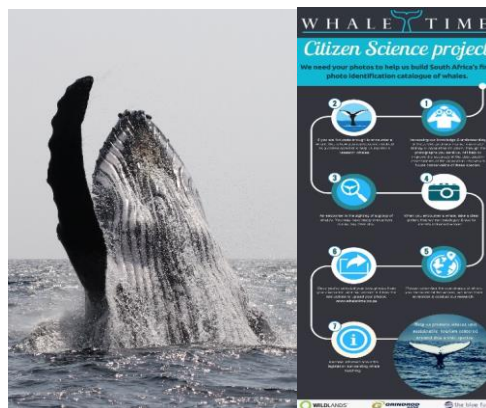
The **RV ANGRA PEQUENA** provides a unique platform for offshore marine science and capacity-building. This classic 72ft vessel was built as a Fisheries Patrol boat and served as a South African Fisheries Research vessel. Recently she has been used for research and training on the east coast of South Africa and in Mozambique, deploying equipment such as ROVs, CTD, plankton nets, multibeam, BRUVS, and grab samplers. She offers a good platform for diver and deck observation studies. She has a fuel range of 3000 NM, and can stay at sea for over 30 days. She is equipped with a crane, winches, dive compressor and a semi-rigid inflatable boat.



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAs): The Ocean Stewards Program has been implemented in direct partnership with two ACEP projects (Spatial Solutions and Biodiversity Surrogacy projects), which aim to map offshore biodiversity for conservation planning and to survey poorly understood deeper habitats, in support of the proposed expanded Phakisa MPA network in South Africa. The WILDOCEANS team also engages in assessing the value and effectiveness of MPAs, and have presented on this at regional international meetings.



The **WHALE TIME** project was launched in 2016 to highlight the humpback whale migration along the coast of KwaZulu-Natal between their summer Antarctic feeding grounds and the coastal waters of Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya, Madagascar, the Mascarenes and the Western Indian Ocean Islands where they give birth to their calves. This project's goal is to bring science, conservation, responsible-tourism, and community together around this species. It aims to contribute to updating scientific knowledge of humpback whale populations and to engage public in whale sightings and associated monitoring of the distribution, behaviour patterns and habitat use of the whales. The project includes the establishment of an online platform that will allow "citizen scientists" to upload photos of whales, to be identified by marine science experts www.whaletime.co.za. It provides a platform to develop a coastal community based "citizen science" movement that will bring benefits not only for conservation of the whales and their ocean environment, but also for coastal communities through training and economic opportunities (including community tour-guide training).



The **BLUE CREW** project supports a group of female entrepreneurs, based in local communities adjacent to coastal environments. Through the collection of recyclable material washed up on beaches, and in mangroves and estuaries, these teams are able to generate revenue for themselves and their teams of assistants. The recyclable material is traded through the Wildlands' Recycling for Life programme, thus generating revenue through the cleaning of these critical ecosystems. Awareness of waste in our environments is built into the programme to ensure that an understanding of these ecosystems and their associated benefits is developed. This is combined with basic business training to ensure a strong understanding of the model leading to improved sustainability of the teams.



THE BLUE FUND is a partnership between Grindrod Ltd and the WILDTRUST and has supported a suite of coastal and marine projects since 2014, including Blue Flag Beaches, endangered penguin conservation (SANCCOB), educational boardwalks through mangroves (Beachwood), marine awareness, and financial literacy. It has also contributed to the Ocean Stewards, WhaleTime and Blue Crew projects described above.