

Q85 Does the proposed site deliver any educational programs focused on cetaceans to local communities? Please select from the following list:

- **Incorporation into the school curriculum or through school outreach programmes.**

Several initiatives have been developed in the archipelago, both by public and private entities. Among others, there is a strong effort to develop the “Eco-escolas” or “Escola Azul”, which aim to enhance ocean literacy in the school program.

- Eco-Escolas, Good practices promoted in local schools to encourage sustainability. <https://ecoescolas.abae.pt>
- Escola Azul, a program to involve schools in deepening the ocean knowledge of the school community. <https://escolaazul.pt/>

In parallel, schools also work in agreement with some goals of bigger projects such as the LIFE IP Azores Natura: in the subject of “citizenship”, students develop their own ocean projects. Some examples of this work ocean related from local schools:

- Escola dos Ginetes (São Miguel).
- Escola do Canto da Maia (São Miguel).

Additionally, the FUNDAÇÃO OCEANO AZUL with the Blue Azores program purposes to qualify children with specific knowledge about the ocean and to raise students' awareness of the importance of the sea. To reach this target, the “Educating a Blue Generation” program empowers Azorean teachers with the tools they need to inspire a Blue Generation. This unique program trains primary school teachers and provides them with an extensive manual and curriculum about the ocean, and specifically the Azorean Sea and its history. Approaching blue literacy through a holistic lens, students learn about the ocean through practical and hands-on teaching activities covering literature, ecology, law, strategy, geography, economics, history, physics, and chemistry.

- **Incentivised opportunities for local community groups or schools to meet cetacean experts and take whale or dolphin watching tours.** Whale watching companies often offer special opportunities for local schools to join the tours. Onboard, marine biologists adapt the information to the children perception, create open time for constructive discussion, providing excellent opportunities to broad kids mind and awake their interest about oceans and cetaceans.

- **Citizen science projects with a focus on raising awareness among participants.**

- <https://guardioesdosacores.futurismo.pt/pt>
- LIFE IP AZORES NATURA (2014-2020)– Strengthening knowledge of biodiversity and its monitoring and surveillance. It supports clean-up events in partnership with organizing entities.

- **Opportunities for local students to study cetaceans and their habitats.**

- **Schools.** Local schools have already developed different programs to enhance ocean literacy in their curricular program, and therefore provide the young

students with knowledge to start learning and acting towards a sustainable ocean future and ocean career.

- **University students** – Biology degree, Marine Mammal subject in which they can learn from the data collected by the MONICET platform as a real case study of cetacean research (Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Universidade dos Açores).
 - **Master and PhD students.** Both in Ponta Delgada (São Miguel) and Horta (Faial), joining the research groups already established at the Azorean Biodiversity Group or Okeanos / IIMAR respectively.
- Awards ceremonies for student projects linked to cetaceans and their habitats.
 - **Opportunities for local students to intern with whale and dolphin watching operators.** Several whale watching companies throughout the archipelago regularly offer internship opportunities. Among the most common programmes for local students, the most common ones are ***Estagiar-T*** (9 month internship for recently graduated students of professional courses), ***Estagiar-U*** (1 month internship for any kind of university student) and ***Estagiar-L*** (9 month internship for recently graduated university students). There is also the programme ***INOVAR***, for unemployed young people
 - **Discounted or free whale and dolphin watching trips for local people.** Most of the companies offer discounted whale and dolphin watching trips for residents in the Azores.
 - **Other, please describe.**

Projects to enhance Ocean Literacy in the Azores:

- Mendes, A. (2020). SEA-THINGS: A project to improve the ocean literacy in the Azores. *Arquipelago-Life and Marine Sciences*, 51-52. <https://revistas.rcaap.pt/arquipelago/article/view/21189>
- Teixeira, Z. (2020). SERMARE: An ocean literacy educational program for societal engagement. *Arquipelago-Life and Marine Sciences*, 53-54. <https://revistas.rcaap.pt/arquipelago/article/view/21190>