MANAGEMENT PLAN

In the effort to create a sustainable Whale Heritage Site in Golfo Dulce, we are uniting experts, including biologists, tour professionals, educators, conservation leaders, and local authorities, as well as community members and visitors. By seeking knowledge and feedback from stakeholders in all sectors, we ensure a dynamic system of advocacy for all residential, migratory and visiting cetaceans.

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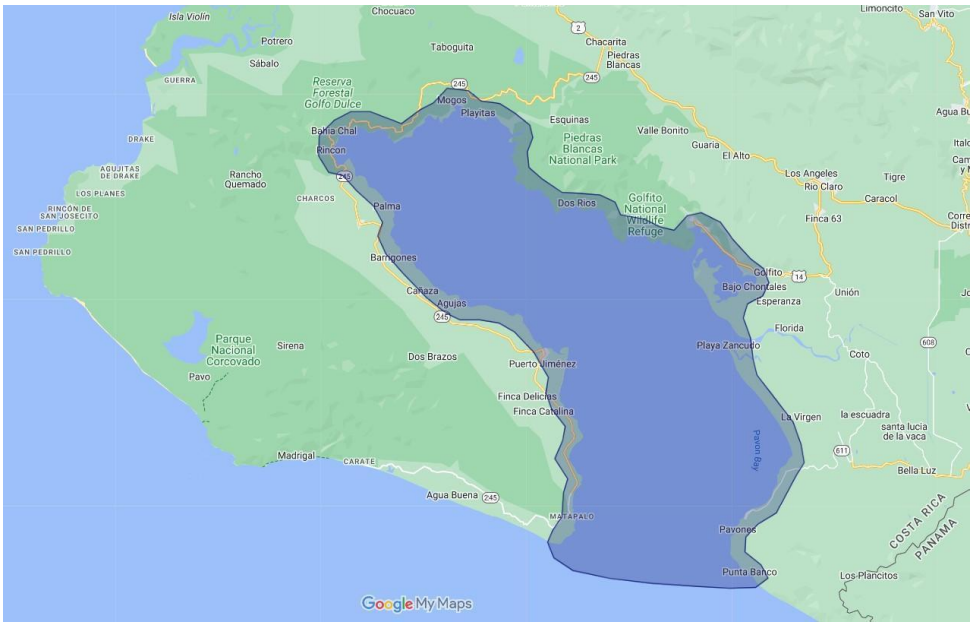
Golfo Dulce Whale Heritage Site area map



Steering Committee

PHOEBE EDGE

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EUGENIA MORALES

Observer (World Animal Protection)

Description of Golfo Dulce Whale Heritage Site

Aerial view of northern Golfo Dulce

Golfo Dulce, centered around 08° 33'N, 083° 14' W, is a tropical fiord-like embayment located along the South Pacific coast of Costa Rica. This curved inlet is approximately 50 km in length and 10 to 15 km wide with a surface area of 750 km2. Bathymetrics describe a steeply sloped inner basin, reaching a maximum depth of 215 m, separated from a shallow outer basin by a 60-m sill. The top of the water column is characterised by lower salinity maintained in part by freshwater dispensed from four major rivers, the Rincón, Esquinas, Tigre, and Coto Colorado, plus several smaller tributaries. Dense mangroves are associated with the riparian areas. Piedras Blancas National Park is close to 15,000 hectares in size and just over 1300 hectares constitutes a marine protected area within Golfo Dulce. The proposed WHS extends 2 km inland around the perimeter of Golfo Dulce. The surrounding towns that we propose to include for the purposes of WHS activities in this submission are: Canaza, Punta Banco, Pavones, Langostino, Matapalo, Mogos, Zancudo, Golfito, Rincon, Playa Blanca, and Puerto Jiménez.

By law, all Costa Rican waters are deemed a whale and dolphin sanctuary (National Decree Number 34327). This means that harming, capturing, killing or commercialising any cetacean species is illegal. Additionally, part of Piedras Blancas National Park extends into Golfo Dulce, covering a marine area of 13.2 km^2 on the northeast side of the gulf. In June 2010, the whole of the proposed WHS location (Golfo Dulce) was declared a Marine Area of Responsible Fishing (MARF) by INCOPESCA (the fishing agency of the Costa Rica government), which effectively ended commercial fishing and longline fishing inside the gulf. It is worth noting that the MARF was initiated through the local fishermens' association, demonstrating their interest in marine sustainability. In 2023, Golfo Dulce was designated an IMMA (Important Marine Mammal Area) by the expert-based Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force in connection with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Golfo Dulce IMMA covers 910 km^2, including the entire embayment to 500 m depth outside the mouth. The

embayment, considered a national biodiversity hotspot within Costa Rica, is also contained within the Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area (EBSA) named 'Corredor Marino del Pacífico Oriental tropical'.

Management Plan Overview

Here we provide a brief outline of our management plan, followed by more detailed sections about our education and regulation efforts, community outreach, environmental projects, and research initiatives to benefit cetaceans in Golfo Dulce.

PRIORITY PROGRAMMES

- **Regulation and enforcement of responsible whale watching activities**
- **Cultural programmes and community engagement**
- **Environmental sustainability**
- **Cetacean research**

ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDELINES

- Billboards have been posted at four marinas and the public boat dock in Golfito (another third will be erected at the public boat dock in Puerto Jiménez when the current dock reconstruction is complete). The displays describe the legal framework for boat interactions with cetaceans and encourage tourists to oppose violations (i.e., entering the water with dolphins in the vicinity).
- The Coast Guard can also be requested to intervene if grievous interactions or activities are observed.

STRATEGIES TO RESOLVE CONFLICT

- The "Delfines y Ballenas" WhatsApp group provides a ready platform for tour operators to communicate, discuss, and resolve concerns.

- Osa Conservation's annual assembly of tour-boat guides and fishermen to review the rules and regulations of on-water conduct offers the opportunity for persistent problems to be addressed with everyone present.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

- The Golfo Dulce Whale Festival celebrates cetaceans through fun and educational activities.
- Our free WHS Speaker Series draws adults and children to programmes in both Spanish and English that inform and inspire residents to care for cetaceans and other marine life.
- Local Puerto Jiménez artist Tony Reyman has installed many large, beautiful cetacean-themed murals around Golfo Dulce, which are a source of community pride and demonstrate the cultural significance of whales and dolphins in the area. Reyman also offers art classes to local students.

INDIVIDUAL & COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Everyone is encouraged to participate and engage in WHS efforts and activities!
- Invitations for involvement are posted regularly on our WHS Golfo Dulce Facebook page.
- We will have a table at the Golfito Whale Festival with a signup list for anyone interested in becoming involved with our citizen science, social events and/or outreach.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

- Our Plant-a-Mangrove Programme contributes one sapling mangrove for every tourist that joins a Golfo Dulce tour with Changing Tide Tours—effectively adding hundreds of rooted mangroves each year!

- Most tour operators use petrol rather than diesel engines which is more environmentally friendly. Some also use low environmental impact motors (for example, Changing Tide Tours has four boats with eco-friendly quiet 4-stroke outboards, and a captain in Zancudo has a boat with an electric motor).
- We promote trash clean-up through both scheduled events and impromptu collection from tour boats, removing debris at sea, on beaches, and in the mangroves.
- Golfito's Town Hall now has a recycling programme that is growing in use.
- High schools within the Golfo Dulce Whale Heritage Site area are encouraging students to bring their own drinking cups to school to reduce single-use plastics.
- The University of Costa Rica Golfito Campus printed posters reminding students and community members to minimise their plastic waste.
- Blog posts directed at tourists encourage the use of reef-friendly sunscreen.

Beach clean-up event

CETACEAN RESEARCH

- An ongoing, multi-year investigation of the population dynamics of the resident dolphins is led by the research teams at CEIC and Osa Ecology but also involves a citizen science component conducted from cetacean-watching vessels.
- We maintain an up-to-date literature list with a public link to all published data.

MONITORING, EVALUATING & REPORTING OUR PROGRESS

- Responsible whale watching practices will be monitored by tour operators and observations of egregious and/or repeated noncompliance (based on incidents described by the "Delfines y Ballenas" WhatsApp group) will be reported to the tour company owner, and if not resolved, will be published in our WHS public report.
- Published scientific articles will present the evaluated results of our cetacean studies.
- A WHS committee member will be present at most of the proposed community projects (Golfo Dulce Whale Festival, Plant-a-Mangrove events, WHS Speaker presentations, beach clean-ups, etc.) and will provide feedback to the committee.
- Our WHS Steering Committee will meet as needed to discuss key outcomes and the Annual Steering Committee Meeting will focus on evaluating our progress and future goals.
- Golfo Dulce WHS reports will be made public via the WHS Facebook and Instagram pages.
- Updates and information will be shared during the annual Golfito Whale Festival.

Regulation and enforcement of responsible whale-watching activities

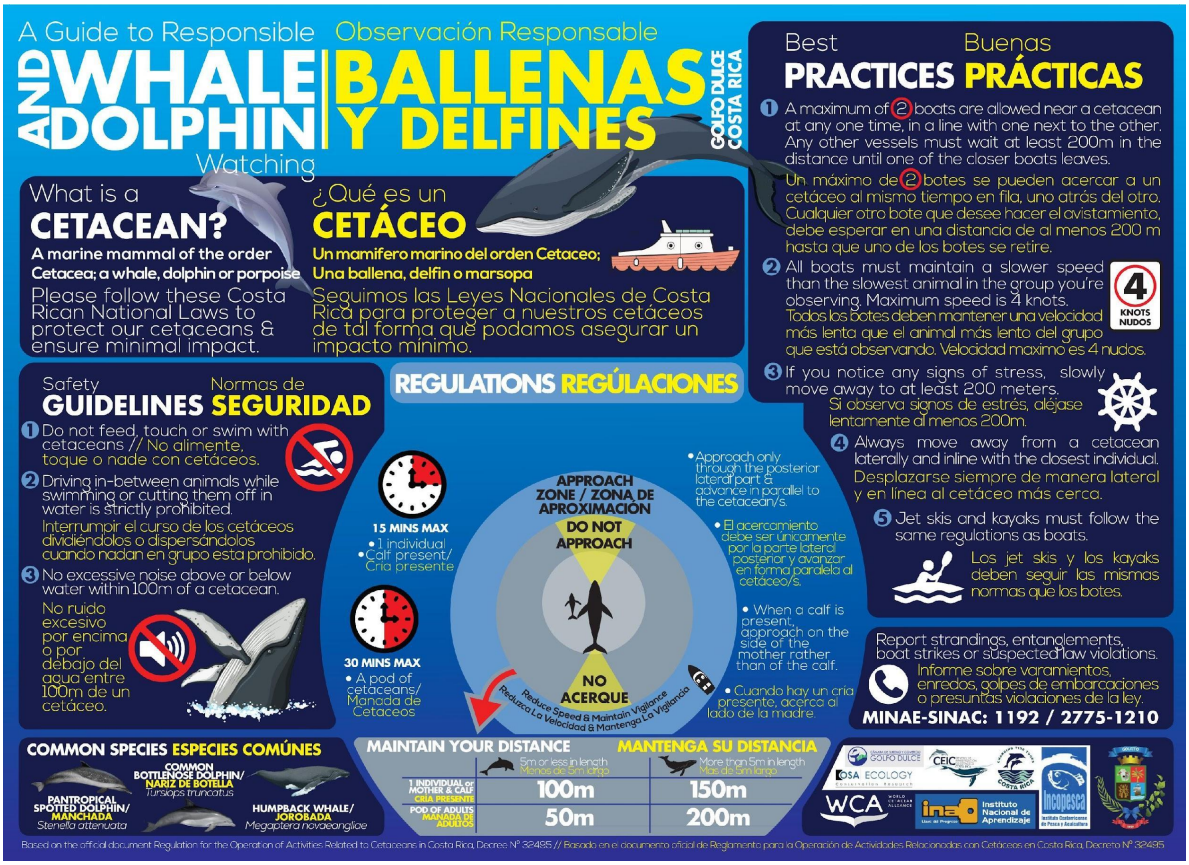
NATIONAL VIRTUAL COURSE

The national course was developed by the Costa Rica National Institute of Learning (INA). INA is an autonomous entity created in 1965 by Costa Rican law (Number 3506). The Cetacean Watching course was the first virtual course of its kind developed by INA, with modules on cetacean species in Costa Rica, behaviour, and national regulations for cetacean watching. All courses that INA offers are completely free, and this particular course is pending to come into law for all boat captains and guides that work in the cetacean-watching industry nationwide. The course is open for anyone who has completed sixth grade and has the 'basic boating' course (the course also supplied by INA which legally anyone working on a boat in Costa Rican waters needs to hold). It takes four weeks to complete with different modules appearing each week. There are videos which accompany the course along with supplementary information for those even more interested in learning more. There is also an option to take this course presentially for those that would prefer to be in a classroom; it takes three weeks to complete and is also free of charge.

BILLBOARDS

There are billboard posters installed at four marinas and the public boat dock in Golfito, and one scheduled for installation upon completion of the dock renovations in Puerto Jiménez. This colorful and informative signage highlights the main points of the cetacean watching regulations publication given by national Costa Rica law (Number 32495). The guidelines are based on the provisions of articles 46, 50, 140 subsections 3) and 18) and 146, of the Political Constitution, 25 subsection 1); Organic Environmental Law No. 7554, Wildlife Conservation Law, Law No. 7317 of October 21, 1992, its reforms and its regulation No. 26435-MINAE of September 3, 1997, Law No. 7416 of June 30, 1994, the Agreement on the International Program for the Conservation of Dolphins between the Republic of Costa Rica and the United States of America approved by Law No. 7938 of November 4, 1999, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law No. 8436, the International Convention for the regulation of Whaling, Law No. 6591 approved on July 24, 1981, Organic Law of the Costa Rican Institute of Tourism, Law No. 4786 of July 5, 1971, Law of Creation of the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation,

article 6 of the General Police Law and articles 22 and 44 of the Law of the National Coast Guard Service No. 8000, Law of the Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Law No. 7384 of March 8, 1994. The billboards have received good feedback from operators and are seen as a way to ensure everyone is familiar with the rules for improved adherence.



TOUR OPERATOR COMMUNICATIONS

Whale and dolphin watching boat tours are operational throughout the year. There are at least 20 different hotels and tour companies around the Golfo Dulce that own boats. At least 24 other boat captains who own their own boats, mainly for fishing, are willing to informally take out guests interested in cetacean watching (census updated September 2022). The

"Delfines y Ballenas" WhatsApp group helps everyone coordinate and communicate. Near-daily texts and messages share whale and dolphin sightings and important information on the topic of cetacean watching. Approximately 95% of operators are participating in the group, with at least one person from each team being registered (35 participants in total to date). The group includes both legal and illegal operators based out of Golfito, Puerto Jiménez, Zancudo, Pavones, Rincon, Playa Blanca, as well as hotels along the waterfront of the Piedras Blancas National Park that regularly conduct cetacean watching tours. We hope to formalise the association with a written confirmation between everyone in the WhatsApp group to work together. This will happen at the first assembly meeting at the start if September.

Once a year, the NGO Osa Conservation also invites local captains for a two-hour meeting with a presentation by a guest speaker. For easy access, these events are held in both Puerto Jiménez and Golfito, the two main municipalities adjacent to Golfo Dulce. The meetings are centered around cetacean watching and include reminders about the rules and regulations. In 2022, guest speaker Frank Garrita spoke about his cetacean research in central Pacific Costa Rica. Open communication and the opportunity to air grievances via texts and voice messages ("Delfines y Ballenas" WhatsApp group) and in-person meetings have proven to help resolve conflicts and encourage compliance with regulations for human-wildlife interactions.

ENFORCEMENT

The agencies responsible for monitoring compliance with local guidelines and/or regulations for cetacean-human interactions are the Costa Rican Ministry of Environment (MINAE), the fisheries officials of INCOPESCA and the Golfito Coast Guard. Someone can report on noncompliance by calling the authorities (by phone at 27750075 or 27752110: MINAE-SINAC's local office in Golfito). A report can also be made via the official SITADA website. If there is photographic or video evidence of breaking the rules, or an official is present, the case may be taken to court where most likely a fine will be charged. In extreme cases (killing a cetacean for example), the offender can be sent to prison.

2023–2026 REGULATION GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. To formalise an association of whale and dolphin watching tour operators that will build community spirit, allow for a greater exchange of information (including

educational opportunities, scientific data, and recapping of national rules and regulations), and discuss areas of discord to actively find appropriate solutions.

ACTIVITES

- Create an official document that everyone in "Delfines y Ballenas" WhatsApp group can sign to show their commitment to responsible whale-watching.
  Timeframe: by 15 September 2023
- Gather signatures from all tour operators in the "Delfines y Ballenas" WhatsApp group.
  Timeframe: by 30 September 2023
- Organise the first annual assembly for the group to meet in person to welcome new captains, discuss the group's goals and initiate plans for annual assemblies.
  Timeframe: by 30 September 2023 (thereafter, the meeting will be held each June)
- Hold an annual tour-operator assembly.
  Timeframe: every June (to coincide with the start of the whale watching season)

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Signed document will confirm the association has been formalized by the "Delfines y Ballenas" WhatsApp group members.
- The agenda and minutes of each annual assembly will be published.
- A list of attendees will verify tour operator participation in the annual assembly.

2. To complete a "carrying capacity" study to determine (and limit) the number of boats that can operate in the area without compromising the welfare of cetaceans.

ACTIVITES

- Write a pre-study report to describe the importance of a carrying capacity study in Golfo Dulce, including key literature and planned methodology.
  Timeframe: by 1 September 2023
- Collect and analyse data.
  Timeframe: September 2023 to May 2024
- Present the results to governmental authorities (MINAE, INCOPESCA, and the Coast Guard) and at the tour operator annual assembly.
  Timeframe: by June 2025

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- The carrying-capacity pre-study report will be sent to WHS.
- Updates on data collection will be provided at WHS Steering Committee Annual Meetings.
- The agenda and minutes of the 2025 annual assembly will be published along with any relevant feedback from governmental agencies.

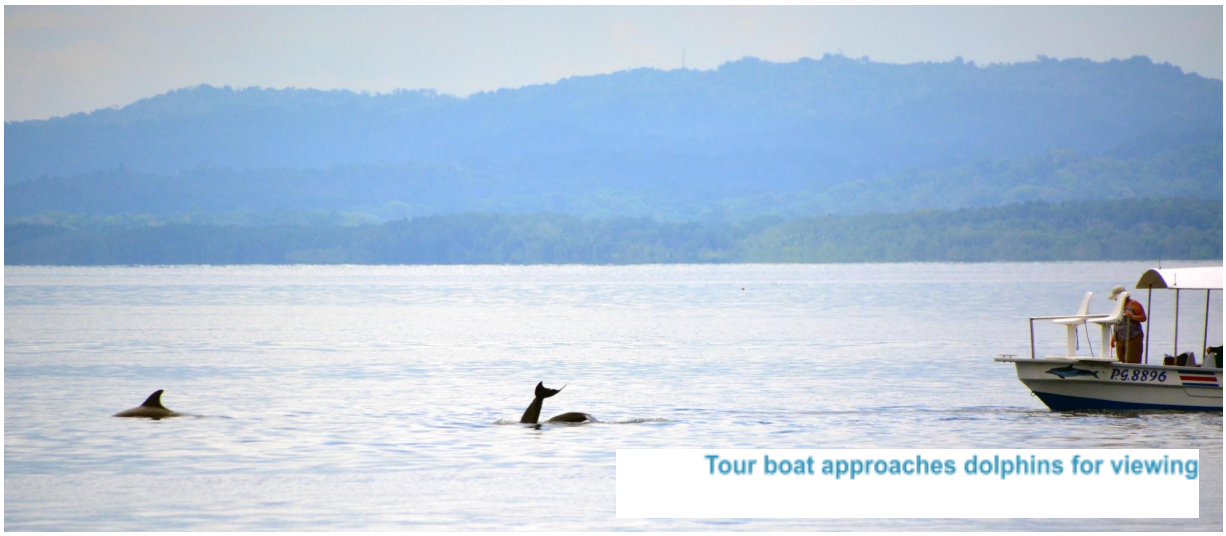
3. To organise with authorities to help validate or "legalise" whale watching tour captains with illegal status and promote the national virtual course for Cetacean Watching.

ACTIVITES

- Provide information and resources to businesses and boat captains to encourage legalisation of all active personnel.
  Timeframe: by 30 September 2023
- A representative from INA (Costa Rica National Institute of Learning) will attend the annual assembly meetings, coordinate the required Basic Boating course, and will be available at the annual assembly to answer questions, and aid in the logistics of enrollment. The Cetacean Watching course will also be promoted.
  Timeframe: September 2023 and every June thereafter

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Minutes of the annual assembly will show time devoted to legalisation efforts.
- The INA representative will tally annual counts for course attendance.
- Increases in legalised operators will be tracked.



Tour boat approaches dolphins for viewing

Cultural programmes and community engagement

GOLFO DULCE WHALE FESTIVAL

On 2-3 September 2023, the first annual Whale Festival will include programmes at Golfito, within the WHS area. The events will include live music by Costa Rican artists, food, and whale and dolphin decorations. Educational tables, including one hosted by the Golfo Dulce Whale Heritage Site Steering Committee, will provide information, play recordings of whale song and dolphin clicks, and encourage involvement in the planning of and family participation in future WHS activities.

WHS SPEAKER SERIES

Throughout the year, free community events are offered at the Golfito Public Library to foster an appreciation for the value and wonder of whales & dolphins. The format of these events is dynamic, incorporating slide presentations, discussions, art projects, book readings, music, and/or games. Some examples of our events include book readings by author-biologist Brooke Bessesen, a student dorsal fin ID art workshop for students, and a whale song musical presentation. Our speaker series has become quite well attended and we've recently added online offerings to expand our reach.

Mother and son at a Golfito library event

MUSIC EVENTS

Osa Ecology has offered free sound bathing events at the Bahia Golfito Marina for the public, and another specifically for the Golfito High School children focused on the humpback whale song recordings made in the Golfo Dulce. The Costa Rica singer and songwriter Maf E Tula has now held two free music workshops at the Golfito public library focused on the humpback whale song and music. This same singer is leading the live music event at the Whale Festival and is also composing a song about the Golfo Dulce to celebrate WHS status when given.

MARINE ART

Local artist Tony Reyman has painted various marine murals around the town of Puerto Jimenez in the WHS area. Local artist Alejandra Rojas has also painted a marine mural at the tourism office at the public boat dock in Golfito and is helping the design of the outer wall mural at the Golfito public library to include marine life. Volunteers from a visiting student group designed and painted a marine mural inside the Golfito library.

2023–2026 OUTREACH GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure the best possible first annual Golfo Dulce Whale Festival and set the groundwork for future years.

ACTIVITES

- Inform local business owners and NGOs about the Festival and invite them to be vendors or have displays, and promote the event to the public.
  Timeframe: in progress
- Welcome the public to the event and stimulate attendee interest in cetaceans.
  Timeframe: 2-3 September 2023
- Pass around an I LOVE WHALES jar and encourage each attendee to add one dry bean (serving as an engagement activity and method for counting participants).
  Timeframe: 2-3 September 2023

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Maintain records of all businesses that participate, a count that should increase annually.
- Estimate the number of individuals who attend the festival (based on attendance counts by event volunteers and/or I LOVE WHALES jar bean counts), to increase annually.

2. To develop more cetacean-related works of art and speaking events around the Golfo Dulce.

ACTIVITES

- Fundraise to support the installation of additional marine murals in Puerto Jiménez and Golfito by local artists, including Tony Reyman and Alejandra Rojas.
  Timeframe: ongoing (first new installation by April 2024)

Continue to invite speakers for our WHS Speaker Series
Timeframe: ongoing (next scheduled lecture is 4 September)

- Initiate a collaboration with the Puerto Jiménez Public Library (ASCONA) to expand our cultural programming in that community.
  Timeframe: by October 2023

- Finalize the song and accompanying video composed and sung by Costa Rican musicians celebrating the beauty of the Golfo Dulce.
  Timeframe: by November 2023

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- More art on display and more cetacean music activities.
- Steering committee reports will provide a summary of all WHS events.

3. To expand our WHS Golfo Dulce social media presence on Facebook and Instagram.

ACTIVITES

- Post to social media, including announcement of events, notifications regarding scientific publications, and public invitations to join our efforts.
  Timeframe: at least weekly

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Visibility of posts, followers and comments.

Environmental sustainability

Student plants a sapling

PLANT-A-MANGROVE

Our Plant-a-Mangrove Programme is designed to facilitate mangrove expansion and restoration, creating critical habitat for myriad marine species. More directly, mangroves serve as protective nursery grounds for fishes upon which the Golfo Dulce dolphins feed. A baby mangrove is planted for every tourist that joins a Golfo Dulce tour with Change Tides Tours. Since 2019, Osa Ecology in collaboration with Changing Tide Tours have planted over 3000 sapling red mangroves, many of which are now trees! As a WHS programme, more than 500 saplings will be planted in 2023-2024, and we hope to inspire other tour operators to participate. Plant-a-Mangrove provides a powerful opportunity to offset carbon and a fun way to bring local and foreign groups together for community planting events.

TRASH CLEAN-UP

Throughout the year we coordinate clean-up events, both scheduled and impromptu (collecting floating plastic during tours), to help keep the environment in and around Golfo Dulce clear of human debris. We also support other organizations doing similar work.

2023–2026 SUSTAINABILITY GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1. To increase community involvement in environmental projects.

ACTIVITES

- Plan and coordinate WHS trash clean-up events.
  Timeframe: at least two per year (first by November 2023)
- Collaborate with other NGOs to tally statistics related to trash collection in/around Golfo Dulce and announce a grand total.
  Timeframe: every November

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Cleanup event notifications and annual tallies will be published on social media.
- Participant sign-ups and attendee counts will be documented and reported.

Cetacean research in Golfo Dulce

WHALE & DOLPHIN SPECIES

There are two resident species of dolphin in Golfo Dulce: the common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and the pantropical spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata graffmani*). Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) arrive seasonally from both the North Pacific and Southern Oceans. Mothers give birth and/or nurse their calves. Importantly, the subgroup from the northern hemisphere (*M. n. kuzira*) belongs to the Central America Distinct Population Segment designated under the United States Endangered Species Act. False killer whales (Pseudorca crassidens) are also common visitors in Golfo Dulce. More rare cetaceans include Rough-toothed dolphins (Steno bredanensis) and Killer whales (Orcinus orca), although numerous additional species have been recorded just outside the embayment.

ONGOING STUDIES

Cetacean investigations are carried out throughout the year in the Golfo Dulce by representatives from CEIC, Osa Ecology, and Changing Tide Tours, with occasional studies by independent investigator Brooke Bessesen. Study topics range from distribution and behavior (using both boats and drones), acoustic investigations (using hydrophones), health checks for resident and transient populations (lacaziosis-like disease, LLD, has been recorded in the bottlenose dolphins), and photo-identification to update the ID catalogue. Local marine biologist, Pilar Bernal, recently completed a master's thesis on the multi-year maternal lineage of the resident bottlenose dolphins to examine social interactions within that population. Changing Tide Tours is developing a new study to examine the diet of bottlenose and pantropical spotted dolphins

through fecal matter. From a social sciences perspective, Bessesen conducted a longitudinal interview study (2010-2020) to evaluate the knowledge of fishermen and boat guides and garner their opinions on abundance trends, possible environmental threats, and marine conservation initiatives.

RECENT SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Complete list and PDF access: Golfo Dulce Scientific Database at www.golfodulce.org

Bernal Castro MP, Herra Miranda D, Pacheco Polanco JD, Oviedo L. 2022. Parámetros reproductivos de la población residente de *Tursiops truncatus* (Cetartiodactyla: Delphinidae) en el Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica. Tesis De Maestría, Universidad Estatal A Distancia De Costa Rica, 16 pp.

Bessesen BL, González-Suárez M. 2021. The value and limitations of local ecological knowledge: Longitudinal and retrospective assessment of flagship species in Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica. People And Nature 3:627–638.

Oviedo L, Bessesen BL, Pacheco-Polanco JD, Herra-Miranda D. 2022. Golfo Dulce IMMA. Important Marine Mammal Area designation resulting from the meeting of the Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force, 6–10 June.

Oviedo L. Fernández M, Herra-Miranda D, Pacheco-Polanco JD, Hernández-Camacho C, Aurioles-Gamboa D. 2018. Habitat partitioning mediates the coexistence of sympatric dolphins in a tropical fjord-like embayment. Journal of Mammalogy 99(3):554–64.

Oviedo L, Fernández M, Pacheco-Polanco JD, Herra-Miranda D. 2019. Spatial analysis on the occurrence of inshore and offshore bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in Osa Peninsula waters and Golfo Dulce. Journal of Cetacean Research Management 20:1–11.

Pelayo-González L, Oviedo L, Herra-Miranda D, Pacheco-Polanco JD, Márquez-Artavia A, Bessesen B, Guzmán HM. 2022. Habitat use of Southeast Pacific humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*; Borowski 1781) in Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica. Marine and Freshwater Research 73(12): 1465-1474

Sánchez-Robledo E, Oviedo L, Herra-Miranda D, Pacheco-Polanco JD, Goodman S, Guzmán H. 2020. The Abundance of False Killer Whaler, *Pseudorca crassidens* (Artiodactyla: Delphinidae) in coastal waters of Golfo Dulce and Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica. Revista de Biología Ambiental 68(2):1–10.

2023–2026 RESEARCH GOALS/OBJECTIVES

1. To continue our ongoing studies related to cetacean distribution, ecology, population dynamics, and behavior.

ACTIVITES

- Collect data via boats, hydrophones and drones, and publish key findings.
  Timeframe: ongoing
- Upload humpback whale tail fluke photos to HappyWhale.com to expand the value of our research by sharing data with cetacean experts studying migration patterns of the species.
  Timeframe: ongoing
- Promote science and the awareness of cetacean research in Golfo Dulce through lectures, the Golfo Dulce Scientific Database (golfodulce.org), and posting publications on social media.
  Timeframe: ongoing

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Increasing scientific outputs.
- Visibility of posts, followers and comments.

2. To closely monitor signs of disease ('LLD': paracoccidioidomycosis ceti) in the bottlenose dolphin population and stay abreast of the literature in hopes of new epidemiological insights into potential cause(s) and/or mitigation measures.

ACTIVITES

- Photo-document dolphins with lesions to record individual disease progression over time.
  Timeframe: ongoing
- Gain knowledge from other researchers through communications and literature reviews.
  Timeframe: ongoing
- Publish updated statistics for Golfo Dulce.
- **Timeframe:** by 2026

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Updates on dolphin LLD will be provided at WHS Steering Committee meetings.
- Published reports and articles.

Conclusions

Golfo Dulce is a rich and important marine area for whales and dolphins and we are excited by the opportunity to establish a sustainable Whale Heritage Site that will serve the surrounding communities to learn about, celebrate and protect every cetacean that visits or calls this embayment home. Through careful planning and implementation, our Steering Committee will harness the strengths of each member to engage the community in meaningful activities. We are committed to developing our current programmes to their fullest potential while also establishing new strategies that ensure a long future of safe, positive and rewarding interactions between humans and marine life in Golfo Dulce.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. – Lao Tzu