

White Pearl Resorts Responsible Eco-Friendly Tourism Initiative, Conservation Programme and Social Responsibility

Introduction

White Pearl Resorts located in Ponta Mamoli on a pristine stretch of beach within the Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve (PPMR) and on the doorstep of the Maputo Special Reserve, previously known as the Maputo Elephant Sanctuary. Where we are located, requires conservation to be a building block in our business. As much as conservation is a topical discussion for White Pearl Resorts, so is the local community and the up-liftment of our people closest to us. Through various initiatives that White Pearl has embarked on in the past to current programmes running and new ventures, we believe that we are a valuable contributor to educating, conserving and uplifting our guests, staff and local residents. Preservation of the local area is our main objective by respecting and protecting the environment to retain the natural appeal. It is for this reason that we do not permit an array of motorised equipment on our section of land, namely large fishing boats, speed boats, quad bikes, off road motor bikes and jet skis. White Pearl Resorts, limits the number of persons, equipment and gear used for ocean safaris and diving. Our best practices are outlined by the PPMR Codes of Conduct and Guidelines.

Area Overview

Early development at Ponta Mamoli can be traced back to the 1940's when a titanium mine existed in the adjacent wetland. In the early 1970's investors developed an elaborate camping resort, water reservoirs erected and even a tarred road was constructed to nearby Zitundo, the local village. Shortly after development, it was sabotaged by the civil revolution in Mozambique and subsequent guerrilla war that left Ponta Mamoli vandalised, plundered and derelict for the next 32 years. It is a slow process of recovery and rebuilding the area. As much as tourism is growing, it is mainly into the Ponta do Ouro town as the destination for South Africans self-driving to Mozambique and Ponta Mamoli has less foot traffic as it remains less accessible to the general public due to the 4 x 4 terrain.

- Eco Surroundings

The surrounding milieu is a variety of ecosystems and many rare assortment of endemic rich woody grasslands, dry savannas, swamp forests, freshwater coastal lakes and floodplains characterised by expanses of reed beds, bulrushes and papyrus.

The neighbouring Maputo Special Reserve, is one of 36 biodiversity hotspots identified worldwide covering a total area of 1 040 km². The park itself is part of the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area, an international conservation project joining areas of Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland.

The civil war greatly reduced numbers of animals in the region as a result of poaching and the entire white rhino population of 65 animals was wiped out, while the elephant population decreased drastically becoming endangered. However after much focus on the Reserve, Peace Parks Foundation announced ongoing efforts to develop the area for tourism, more than 8,000 animals have been translocated to the reserve since 2010 in a multi-year endeavor supported by the governments of Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa and various organizations. Elephant numbers have now risen to around 450 individuals & due to the variety and richness of the habitats the reserve offers a remarkable diversity of bird species – with a list of around 350 species.

Hippo, crocodiles and a variety of small buck including red duiker, suni, reedbuck and inyala can be seen on scenic drives to local sunset spots like Lake Piti, a massive freshwater lake. The

location has been recommended as an important bird area – IBA due to the presence of an increasing variety of bird life including near endemic and rare bird species.

Extraordinarily rich in diversity with varying topography and a multitude of marine animals to observe, the extensive coral reefs at Ponta Mamoli are pristine and the diving is controlled and exclusive. With more than fifteen reefs in close proximity of the launch site, ranging from shallow dives of 8 meters to extreme deep blue 40 meter dives and scintillating long range drift dives.

From sightings of whale sharks, schools of hammerhead sharks and Zambezi sharks, especially during the October to March season, along with squadrons of graceful devil rays to big aggregations of colourful fish namely snappers, flame goatfish, fusiliers and unicorns to name but a few and a myriad of invertebrates including exquisite coral structures. Inquisitive large potato bass, rays of all varieties, huge honeycomb moray eels and an impressive array of other eels including the tiny golden eel, guitar sharks, leopard sharks and the spotted ragged tooth shark during the female's gestation and rest period in the warmer Mozambique waters, are habitually observed – all direct in Ponta Mamoli

For those unusually rare sightings – the masterfully disguised Mauritius scorpion fish, giant anglerfish, paper fish, frogfish, cute juvenile clown triggerfish and shy little pineapple fish are frequently found in 'special' spots we will expose to you. The palette surgeonfish, is often spotted along with juveniles on select reefs. An impressive number of butterfly fish species abound. Ponta Mamoli is a macro connoisseur's paradise with rare species of nudibranchs, partner and squat shrimp and if you are very fortunate, the seldom-seen harlequin shrimp.

Exquisite unspoilt structures created by billions of tiny coral polyps joined together in colonies of giant plate, turbinate, leather; mushroom and 'fields' of stag horn corals adorn our shallower reefs. A unique 'forest' of giant yellow coral trees with feather star decorations and interspersed purple gorgonian sea fans creating an underwater canvas of colour, contrast and magnificence, is a superlative 30-meter dive in a serene, tranquil setting.

From November to early March on famous Pinnacles can potentially reveal an explosion of massive schools of pelagic fish – great selection of kingfish, with pulsating shark activity. Humpback whales swim our unspoilt coastline from July to November. Schools of Bottlenose dolphins are abundant throughout the year.

The marine reserve has a rich diversity of marine life as noted above and is considered as the most important Leatherback and Loggerhead turtle nesting ground along the Mozambican coast. Leatherback turtles are the largest sea turtles and are classified as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), while Loggerhead turtles have been classified as endangered. Turtles are ashore for nesting November to February and unfortunately, only 1 in 2 hatchlings from every thousand reach maturity due to the intensity of the first few months of their lives.

- Local Community

Considered to be the residents of Ponta Mamoli, Zitundo, immediate surroundings and Ponta's along the coastline within a short distance of White Pearl Resorts. There is a clear divide of affluence and poverty as well as a mix of foreigners and native Mozambican nationals. Overall there is a slow economic recovery after the civil war with poor to no basic infrastructure in some parts of the local area, specifically along the road from Zitundo to Ponta Mamoli where our staff and their families reside. Predominantly low income earners with possibility of no income earners per household however there is visible affluence including businesses dotted along the coastline of the local area. As much as residents are dependent on living off the land through agriculture and being self-sufficient or walking long distances for employment in all weather, part of the uplifting

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our community means that local businesses, affluent community members and government need to contribute through various initiatives.

As White Pearl Resorts, we are proud to be a Mozambican owned business supporting the upliftment of our community.

White Pearl Programmes:

We are committed to the sustainability of our land and protecting conservation areas through educating our guests, staff and community on how to enjoy, appreciate and still protect the beauty that surrounds us.

We share the vision of PPMR – “It is envisaged that the PPMR’s habitats and marine life are protected into the future, through responsible cooperative management, and thus that Mozambique’s natural heritage is not compromised and lost through irresponsible actions, thereby allowing for the sustainability of well managed ecotourism activities that does not conflict with the objectives of the PPMR.”

As a result we have a dedicated Activity Centre on-site with a team who facilitate not only activities but all our initiatives for our programmes. In 2017, we created further job opportunities by employing a professional Game Ranger and Environmentalist as well as an Animal Tracker and Horseman with a passion for the environment. Our team has grown to 7 members already and work in collaboration with PPMR and Peace Parks Foundation. Together we will achieve our objectives for the Awareness of Conservation and the Social Responsibility Programmes.

- Conservation Programme

An Eco Charge (Tax) of US\$22 is imposed on each guest once during their stay at the resort mainly for the White Pearl Resorts collaboration with PPMR and Peace Parks Foundation Turtle Nesting Monitors. The tax reflects the seriousness of our efforts towards preservation of conservation and proceeds are donated to conservation, turtle research and other eco-initiatives.

Divers are strongly encouraged to become true ambassadors of the underwater world displaying respect and harmony in a fragile environment that we as visitors are most privileged to visit. Continuing dive education – developing and improving diver knowledge with Look NO touch rules!

Our most successful initiative and long term project is the turtle nesting monitor project. These creatures are sadly widely exploited along the coastline. It is therefore imperative to protect them and White Pearl is proud to be part of this global conservation initiative.

SAVING AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

Local communities living along the coastline have a poor comprehension of marine conservation efforts and in certain cases threaten the very resources that the PPMR aims to protect. Most of these threats stem from shoreline based activity such as poaching of turtles for meat, digging up of their eggs, the use of gill and seine nets to catch fish or the stripping of invertebrates such as mussels from the intertidal zone. Poaching of turtles by local coastal communities is a serious problem in Mozambique and in most areas its turtle population faces the serious threat of extinction.

For the past 9 years, there has been an initiative towards raising awareness and improving the understanding within communities to further protect the endangered turtles. The Association for Coastal and Marine Research, Centro Terra Viva and the management of the marine reserve - supported by Peace Parks Foundation and its donors – have trained members of the surrounding

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communities – Ponta do Ouro, Milibangalala, the Machangulo Peninsula, Malongane and Mamoli - as turtle monitors, who once trained, are employed for the season.

To monitor and protect the turtles coming ashore to lay their eggs, a marine monitoring programme was established to augment the programme that has been in place since 1994 (Pierre Lombard and his family). The presence of turtle monitors is vital in protecting these endangered turtles. The reserve's turtle monitoring programme is linked with the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a World Heritage Site in South Africa who has been monitoring turtles since 1963.

A regular presence by turtle monitors at night during the breeding season (December to March) has been an effective deterrent to poachers. This is because the monitoring coincides with the same period at night during which the turtles emerge from the sea to lay their eggs. Protective measure and action taken against apprehended poachers is necessary to reinforce to these communities that turtle poaching is illegal and negatively impacts of tourism for the area. Turtles are protected animals in Mozambique under the Forests and Wildlife Regulations, 6th of June 2002, 12/2002. The reserve management and turtle monitors conduct vehicle and foot patrols of the turtle nesting sites throughout nesting season (October to end of March) to protect the nesting females and their eggs, as well as monitor the number of nesting females. Important data is collected by the turtle monitors which include how many turtles have been tagged, the size, whether the turtle has been laying eggs or not, if the animals were not sighted, how many tracks there were and how many eggs hatch during the hatching stage.

White Pearl Resorts is actively involved in a protection programme together with a number of volunteers who work the Mozambique coastline. In partnership with the Ponta do Ouro partial Marine Reserve Conservation Programme, White Pearl Resorts works to monitor and protect these majestic and docile creatures.

On 21 November 2016, the Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve and White Pearl Resorts signed an agreement in which White Pearl Resorts is willing to provide support to the Partial Marine Reserve of Ponta do Ouro and also provide its financial responsibility for the turtle monitors who patrol the areas of Ponta Mamoli and Ponta Techobanine.

The Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve currently has 42 Marine Turtle Monitors, responsible for patrolling 102 km of coastline. The subsidies are covered by the Reserve (20), Group Machangulo (20) and White Pearl Resorts (6) and the Dolphin Encounters which guarantee a "top up" of the Monitors "of" Ponta do Ouro.

The beaches of Mozambique are largely unexplored and unspoilt, providing the perfect environment for sea turtles to lay their eggs. White Pearl Resorts is privileged to have these wonderful creatures nest along the beach every summer from November to February and we are proud to actively play a role in protecting these endangered creatures.

Additional Conservation Projects:

Turtle Walks	Published activity for guests and the local school youth during turtle season to create awareness for the endangered species	Ongoing
Data Collection By PPMR	Data collection by our activity team after briefing and educational update by PPMR and Peace Parks	As required
Develop a Species List of the area	In collaboration with Maputo Special Reserve, this will	In progress

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	become available to visitors to the area and guests at White Pearl and the Special Reserve as a guide for sightings	
Pierre Fabre	A French brand of Suncare Products, Avène that is available for sale in all major retail outlets in South Africa and at White Pearl contributes R10 on each item sold within the range towards the protection of the endangered turtles that nest ashore.	Ongoing

- Responsible Eco-Friendly Tourism

White Pearl endeavours to gradually introduce eco-friendly practices throughout the resort by “going green” over a time in consideration of the atmosphere and the environment. With this approach, we strive to market to and attract eco-friendly tourism.

With all our environmentally friendly tourism projects running, an explanation is enclosed with the awareness on why we have replaced it or introduced it. As part of our communication process, we promote the initiative to our guests, trade partners and the public through social media campaigns, in-room or public area notices at the resort.

Pipeline Projects:

Plastic Straws - single use	Removed single use plastic straws and introduced re-usable glass straws	Completed
Plastic Water Bottles	Replacing with re-usable glass water bottles through a self sustaining water plant funded by White Pearl resorts and in partnership with Vivreau Water.	In progress
Plastic In-room Amenities – single use	Replacing with re-usable glass or ceramic containers and bottles	In progress
SOS (Save our Seas) Walk * We involve our guests as an educational opportunity and it is a published activity advertised for participation every Saturday morning at 07h45	Debris washes up into our bay causing a threat to our natural environment, wild animals and marine life We provide a specific SOS bag for debris collection	Ongoing
Environmentally friendly cleaning material and supplies	Ozone friendly products used throughout the resort	Ongoing
Home Grown Garden Produce	We pride ourselves on the quality and presentation of meals and most of the	In progress

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	<p>salad ingredients and herbs used are home grown and garden fresh</p> <p>Initiating a new project with a local resident and Mozambican Landscaping entrepreneur, to develop a more extensive nursery of exotic vegetables and herbs for kitchen use</p>	Initiated
Contribute towards and Support the local Chilli Farm in Salamanga	<p>Purchase chilli produce</p> <p>Tours to the chilli farm</p>	This project has been put on hold by Peace Parks until further notice
Guided Environmental and Conservation Activities and Talks	<p>This is a guided talk through our various areas along the shoreline to educate guests on the ocean and the marine life that exists. How the marine life adapt to the constantly changing environment. We provide special exploration footwear in our activity centre for this educational process.</p> <p>The introduction to the ocean safari is an induction on what you may expect from the Mozambican coastline and ocean life. Our best practices for the Ocean Safari is a guided by the Code of Conduct set by the PPMR for Dolphin, Whale and Whale Sharks and the Fishers Code of Conduct and the Diver Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Lake Mamoli Guided Exploration is an educational trail highlighting that it is sanctuary for over 433 butterfly species of which 3 are endemic to Mozambique. Wildlife big and small are noted on the walk and flora and fauna such as the indigenous jumping bean tree is a highlight</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

- Social Responsibility Programme

Growing Pearls

Just like natural pearls, our community is a valuable gem. Pearls are formed by various small objects that lodge in the mantle tissue of a mollusk. In response, the tissue forms a unique layer around these objects which over time produces one perfect pearl. Through *Growing Pearls* we hope to impact the community through various projects, with the ultimate goal of producing a strong and empowered community - our perfect pearl.

Growing Pearls offers our guests the opportunity to become involved and share in our vision for the community. We love to take our guests on a tour of the local villages to not only experience the different cultures, but also see current and future projects of *Growing Pearls*. Guests can help by donating funds of which 100% will go directly towards our projects. Guests also have the option to physically take part in our project activities and leave their footprints in the heart of the community. Our main focus in the community but not exclusively is the Escola Primaria Completa De Mamoli as we believe that our opportunity for change is with the youth of our community.

2019 Projects:

Waste Management System	This has a dire effect on our environment and human habitation at the present moment as there is no system in place for the collection, transport, treatment and disposal of waste as well as recycling	Collaboration with Peace Parks Foundation	Initiated and in discussion
School Brass Bell	White Pearl Guest, Mr Stefanov and his family donated a large brass bell	Cost of US\$700 to Stefanov Family	Completed
School Electrical Project	Installation of electricity at the school to initiative the next project of opening a computer centre	Cost of US\$3595 to Marianne and Knut, a guest at White Pearl that has adopted Growing Pearls Norway	Completed
School Roof and Windows Installation	Complete the roof and insert the windows at the school as a project funded by a guest	Full Cost to Marianne and Knut, a guest at White Pearl that has adopted Growing Pearls Norway	Completed
Community Initiatives and Events	Local community involved in informative educational events, special day celebrations, as well as talks by organizations To name a few initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Pearl staff versus community soccer match • Celebrate Children’s Day with snacks and treats from the resort • Talks from Dignity Dreams to the young girls on Hygiene and Menstruation • Swimming lessons for the youth after school during the 	White Pearl and the relevant organizations	Ongoing

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Sponsored Learnership Programme	<p>summer for lifesaving techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine and Land Conservation talks to the young on how to protect our environment and create interest through education in understanding their surroundings. <p>New Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top achievers monthly excursion as reward and recognition at the school. The excursion promotes awareness and education around conservation in the area. Long term, we aim to get a sponsorship for learners to further their studies in the area of Conservation or Environmental studies 	White Pearl White Pearl collaboration with Peace Parks Foundation	Proposal
Water Conservation Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction and Installation of a Water and Glass Bottling Plant to self-sustain the requirements of White Pearl Resorts. 	Vivreau South Africa	In progress

Additional Social responsibility Projects:

As part of our Social Responsibility, we are supporting local residents as much as possible by purchasing from them or using their services. We also promote and encourage further small business development in our community. As much as we know there are many more opportunities to better support local small businesses and entrepreneurs, it is not always possible for White Pearl Resorts due to the accessibility to the resort with the current road conditions. Many are unable to meet the logistical requirements as they are can not deliver using the under-developed rough terrain between Zitundo and Ponta Mamoli.

Our current contribution to local business:

Gordons Landscaping	Provides a maintenance garden and landscaping service	Weekly
Lucas Nguenha	Ice Supplier to White Pearl	Daily / Weekly dependent on occupancy levels
Miguel in Ponta	Fish Supplier to White Pearl	Daily / Weekly dependent on occupancy levels

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Mechanical Parts and Repairs	Zitundo local residents for minor repairs and parts	
Ponta Tourism Initiatives	Local community sponsorships and initiatives like beach clean up, town clean up, marine rescue, etc.	As required