



VAMIZI NEWS

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A Marine Conservation and Research Centre, known as The Treehouse, has now been completed and has recently opened its doors to guests on Vamizi.

Vamizi now has a Marine Conservation and Research Centre which provides the perfect place for guests to find out more about the community and conservation work being carried out on the island. Each week 'Treehouse Sun Downers' are organized, where guests can have drinks and canapes whilst learning about the various projects to conserve Vamizi and its surrounding reefs. The Treehouse is located just behind the dive centre and is open every day. Guests are encouraged to visit at their convenience, and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee (including Ibo coffee from a nearby island) and talk to the people responsible for protecting this delicate environment. ■



LITTLE FISH. BIG POND



In April, Isabel Silva, WWF's Conservation Science Officer, put four Vamizi staff through an open water diving course. Belmiro Pequeno (Human Resources), Crispin Capitão (Accounting), Bazana Issa (Conservation Monitor) and Rauf Mijai (Conservation Monitor) all learned how to dive in the clear blue waters off Vamizi. All four did exceptionally well and soon four more members of staff will follow suit. This is part of a commitment at Vamizi to teach firsthand the importance of conserving the coral reefs to all of our staff. ■



NEW LODGE MANAGER

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Robert Palmer as Lodge Manager. Rob previously worked on Vamizi as a Dive Instructor and then as Assistant Manager. He was born in South Africa in a small town called Greytown. Rob has a medical background, having qualified as a chiropractor in Cape Town, but decided to pursue a somewhat different career. Rob first came to Vamizi

in January 2012, shortly after his partner Meg had taken the position as the resident Wellness Consultant on the island. Rob's favourite pastime is free diving or enjoying a good cup of tea! He is extremely passionate about Vamizi and its people and this transpires to every guest that he meets. Given his love of the natural environment, he lends all of his support, and that of his staff, to the conservation team working on the island. In this picture Rob is holding a Giant Trevally, or 'GT', one of the most exciting game fish that can be caught along the underwater 'drop-offs' around the island. ■



WHALE OF A TIME

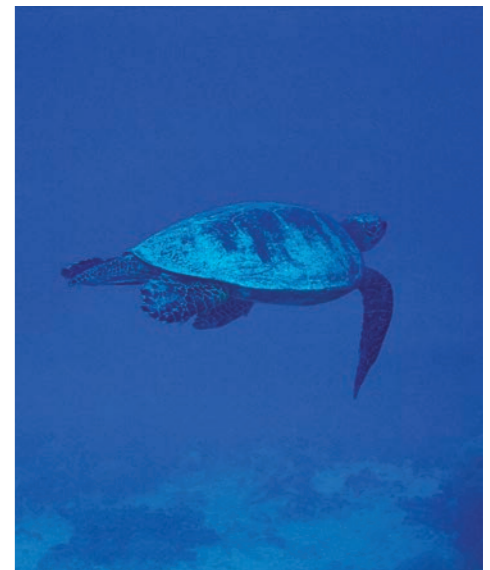
It is that time of the year when the humpback whales are back! A few whales have already been spotted on their long journeys south to Antarctica from the warm waters of Eastern Africa. So make sure you keep an eye open, as you don't want to miss these gracious creatures! We offer whale watching trips to see them up close. If you're lucky enough you might see them from the fishing or dive boats and sometimes even from the Lodge and Private Villas. If you do see them, please make sure you let someone from WWF know, or record your sighting on a whale sheet in the dive centre. Thank you! ■



CUTENESS. AN INTRIGUING SURVIVAL STRATEGY.

Many conservation organisations have their cute flagship species - WWF has the panda and Frankfurt Zoological Society has the mountain gorilla, to name just two. At Vamizi we have the Green turtle. Vamizi currently has a

healthy population of Green Turtles, but unless we maintain their habitat in pristine condition we could see their numbers decline. WWF works hard to ensure that the turtle nesting beaches are protected. This includes minimising light pollution on the beaches at night and removing obstacles such as trees and logs. This beautiful female turtle was pictured shortly after laying eggs on the lighthouse beach. Notice the white barnacles on her head giving her the appearance of having cartoon eyes. Her actual eyes are below the water line; we think she had an agreement with these barnacles at school to allow her to snooze undisturbed in class, whilst still appearing to be awake! ■



A NEW FACE AT WWF VAMIZI

In February WWF Vamizi welcomed a new face to its team! Joana Trindade joined from Maputo having recently been awarded an MSc in Conservation Biology from the University of Lisbon. Joana is already well known to Vamizi as she spent 6 months in 2012 on the island carrying out field work on factors influencing nesting beach selection by Green turtles. Joana

has many duties within WWF including educating guests, Vamizi staff and the local communities in environmental matters. As a conservation biologist Joana will also be assisting the WWF Conservation Science Officer in implementing research and monitoring activities below and above the water and promoting Vamizi as a centre for international research projects. ■





COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Women Waste Management Groups continue to generate income from cleaning activities (see image above). These activities were established by the Vamizi Community Department as part of the waste management program which empowers women and school children to participate in cleaning activities (i.e. the collection of flotsam and jetsam from beaches and picnic sites). These activities occur in conjunction with environmental education at the local primary school, in the fishing villages and at the Lodge and construction sites.



'The Friends of Vamizi Trust has recently been established (UK Charity Number 1147351) to help fundraise for community development projects on and around Vamizi. The trustees are based in the UK and on the ground in Mozambique. The projects themselves are undertaken by the Vamizi Community Department on behalf of the Trust. We would like to thank the many guests whose contributions, sometimes financial and sometimes in the form of football kit, footballs, clothing for the elderly, books/pens for the primary school etc, have all been very gratefully received by the community. ■



CCP BUSY AT WORK



The CCP, the Community Council for Fisheries, is a group of voluntary men and women who live on Vamizi and are responsible for controlling and managing the fisheries. The CCP does an average of 2 patrols of the marine sanctuary each week in order to ensure that no poachers are operating in these protected waters. The engine on the CCP patrol boat was provided by the Lodge and the fuel used to patrol the sanctuary is funded by the WWF. The Lodge also pays a fee for every dive boat launched into the sanctuary and this fee was recently used to finance the construction of the CCP headquarters on Vamizi. Recently an officer from IDPPE (Institute for the Development of Small Scale Fisheries), Delgado Franco Luís, joined the CCP members to help monitor local community catches. The CCP recently apprehended 60 meters of mosquito nets that were being used as fishing gear, a practice that is forbidden by Mozambican law. These nets, along with other illegal fishing materials recently confiscated by the CCP were burnt on the 7th of July. Many of the CCP members were present to symbolize the fight against the use of illegal fishing gear in the region.

The WWF recently donated a solar panel (pictured) to the CCP. The CCP can use the panel as a source of income, as they can charge members of the community a small amount of money to recharge their mobile phones. The bulb also helps prepare for night patrols at the office. ■

