



VAMIZI NEWS

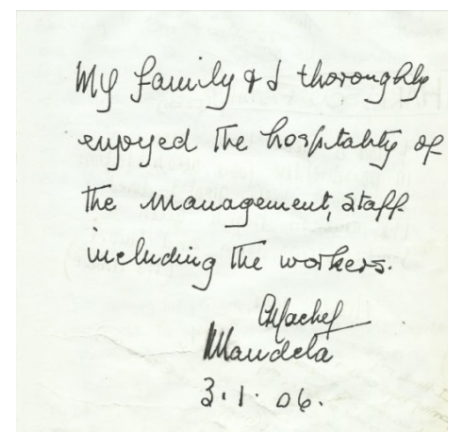
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Every guest who comes to Vamizi is special, but these are two guests whose visit will stay in our memories forever.

Remembering Madiba. In early 2006, Nelson Mandela and his wife Graça Machele stayed on Vamizi. It was almost 10 years ago, but this moment is still fondly remembered by many members of staff who are still working on Vamizi today.

Nelson Mandela was a great man and those who met him were enlightened by his kindness and simplicity. He will be sorely missed by millions of people around the world and we are delighted that we were able to share this special piece of paradise with him and Graça ...even for a few days. ■





MEET SALIMO

Salimo Assumane was born in Vamizi. He is the grandson of the religious leader in Aldeia, the oldest village on Vamizi. He started working in conservation with ZSL in 2003, and became one of our turtle monitors, which won him the nickname Tartaruga (the Portuguese word for turtle). In 2009 he started working at the dive center and has since become a boat skipper and a rescue diver. Salimo loves the sea, and his favourite thing to do is dive. He loves showing guests the amazing underwater treasures around Vamizi and this is why he is currently taking a dive master course. ■

AN UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Having a green turtle nesting in front of your villa is quite an unusual present to receive at Christmas! Nevertheless this was witnessed by guests and staff on the 25th, and made everyone's evening more the merrier! In 2013 167 nests were recorded on Vamizi, all but one from green turtles (the other one from a hawksbill turtle). These numbers show an increase compared to 2012, where 151 nests were recorded, which shows that this population is probably stable, with no apparent decline in the number of nesting females. We also recorded 45 no nests, where turtles come up the beach, start digging but interrupt the process (either because they were disturbed, tired, or the area was not suitable for nesting). ■



COMMUNITY MATTERS



The school in Vamizi is attended by an average of 250 children from the three villages on the island. Every year a high number of children drop out of school, especially girls, due to premature weddings, or because they are called to help their parents in their homes and on the farms. To fight this trend, the Friends of Vamizi Trust (FoVT) has started a project to provide the children with one meal a day (porridge), in the hopes that this will give them a strong reason to stay in school for longer. The FoVT has also given two girls from the island a scholarship to move into further education on the mainland. ■