

## Bazaruto Archipelago National Park.

Hello visitors! Welcome to Baz National Park.

This is a protected area, where we work hard to keep our marine habitats and wildlife safe and healthy. And we need your help!

**Dugongs** are considered to be endangered marine mammals, The dugongs that live in the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park are thought to be the last viable population anywhere in East Africa.

With This in mind, please ensure that the boat you are on keeps at least:

1. 40 Meters away from the closest Dugong and have it move away at a slow speed. If They approach a stationery boat – you need not withdraw.
2. 50 m away from Dolphins and whales
3. Do not remain with the animal(s) for longer than 20minutes (10 Min for Dugong)

### **For all Dolphins, Whales , Dugong and Turtles:**

1. Attempts to capture, feed, touch or swim with them are strictly prohibited.
2. The production of loud or disturbing sounds (including underwater playback of cetacean sounds) is prohibited
3. Sightings of injured or entangled animals as well as whale, dolphin, dugong or turtle strandings should be reported immediately to the park (Contact details below)
4. A detailed log of all encounters with or sightings of cetaceans and dugongs (including date and time of encounter, species, GPS location and amount of time the vessel spent observing the animal) should be kept by the skipper of each tour boat, and made available upon request, to BANP staff and ANAC officials.

### **Observation Zone:**

Adhere to the observation zones of :

1. never approach closer than 50 m of Dolphons and whales /
2. Never approach closer than 40 Meters from Dugongs Vessel should slow to *no wake speed* (5 kn) immediately, when a dugong is seen within 100 metres of the vessel.
3. Do not remain with the animal(s) for longer than 20minutes.
4. Do not chase them, drive a boat directly towards them (face-on) or drive in circles around them. Never attempt to separate a group of dugongs or place the vessel in between animals. Wherever possible, let them approach you. If they choose to approach your vessel or bow-ride, maintain a steady slow speed and direction.
5. Do not change direction or speed in a sudden or erratic manner.
6. Avoid Dolphins, whales and dugong with young. If a calf is present, all vessels should retreat to a minimum distance of 300 m at low speed (max. 6 knots or lower)
7. No more than 3 vessels at a time are allowed within 100 m of the animal(s).
8. Do not pin the animal(s) between your vessel and the shore or other obstacles (including other vessels).
9. Move away slowly if you notice signs of disturbance, such as prolonged diving, erratic changes in speed and direction, rapid swimming at the surface, formation of tight groups, repeated tail-slapping or flipper-slapping.
10. Possible sources of noise disturbance can be avoided by ensuring speeds are never greater than 10 knots,

11. No fishing activity from the vessel should be taking place in this zone and if fishing is in progress while the animal(s) approaches the vessel or the gear (hand lines, cast lines, nets, fish or crustacean traps or pots etc.) within 300 m, the fishing gear must be retrieved immediately.

### **Snorkelling:**

- Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but bubbles.

It is illegal to take anything like shells, coral or even pieces of wood, out of the park area. However, if you see any rubbish on the beach or in the water, please collect it and dispose of it on the boat. This helps us keep our park clean for visitors like you, and safe for animals too!

- Look but don't touch. There may be occasions, particularly in strong currents, where you may need to touch the substrate or hold on. Please try to ensure that you are not touching anything that is living. If it doesn't look like rock, it's probably not rock! If it has texture, patterns or feels slimy to the touch, then it is most likely a coral or a sponge, and can be damaged by your touch. Try to use only one finger and a thumb to hold on. Pay attention to where you are kicking, too –avoid damaging or breaking coral.
- Safety first .If there are strong currents or you don't feel comfortable in the water for any reason, tell your boat skipper or snorkelling guide, and get out of the water. This is better for your safety, and also helps prevent you from damaging the reef.
- Corals don't love sunscreen. If it washes off your skin and into the ocean, sunscreen can affect coral health. Please don't apply sunscreen before getting in the ocean –you can protect your skin much better by wearing protective clothing like hats and long-sleeved shirts(on the boat), and rash vests and leggings (while you swim). If you must apply sunscreen, please do it at least 30 minutes before you get in the ocean.
- A maximum of 6 snorkellers and one guide are allowed in the water at any time. If a boat approaches a site and finds that snorkelers are already there, they can either wait until those snorkelers get out, or go to a new site, at least 200 m away from the area where people are already snorkelling.
- When snorkelling with protected marine animals(dugongs, turtles, dolphins, sharks and rays), please respect the following guidelines:
  - o Keep your distance-stay a minimum of 3metresaway
  - o Snorkellers should stay together as one group
  - o Move calmly and slowly, and do not make a lot of noise
  - o Do not chase, touch or hold on to the marine fauna, and never feed any marine life
  - o Do not surround a marine animal –it will feel stressed. All snorkelers should stay on one side of an animal so it has space to move away if it chooses too.
  - o Avoid excessive flash photography
  - o For dugongs, please follow the park's special Code of Conduct for dugongs.

Don't forget to pay your park entry fee and park activity fee for each time you go snorkelling! These fees are used to help manage the park and a portion of the fees goes towards supporting community projects on the islands.

Contact us

For queries about the park's regulations, to report a stranded whale, dolphin or other marine animal, or to report irresponsible behavior around marine animals, please contact:

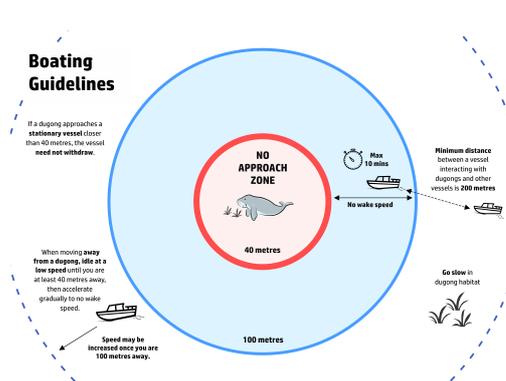
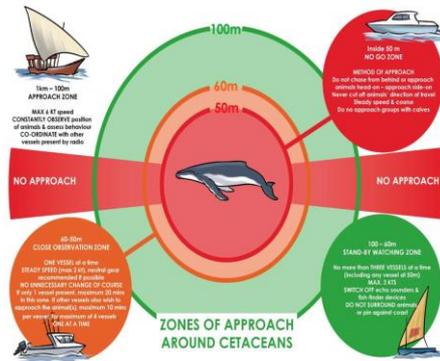
Tourism office: (+258) 85 076 5512 / (+258) 82 262 0730

(Mon - Fri 07:30 - 16:00; Sat, Sun & public holidays 07:30 - 13:00)

Out-of-hours emergencies or to report dead or stranded marine wildlife: (+258)855927553)

Email: [bazaruto@africanparks.org](mailto:bazaruto@africanparks.org)

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## Whales and dolphins of Mozambique

A field guide to the most frequently seen cetacean species in Mozambican waters

Whales and dolphins are an important part of our marine life and are protected by law in Mozambique. Please help the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park to protect our whales and dolphins - navigate responsibly and slowly around them, do not make sudden movements or changes in speed and do not spend long periods of time with them as this can be stressful to the animals.

