

# VAMIZI NEWS

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Each September, International Coastal Clean Up Day is celebrated all over the world, with volunteers joining together in an effort to collect as much rubbish from the beach as possible.

**International Coastal Clean Up Day.**

Keeping our beaches clean in Vamizi is a top priority. Waste is not only an eyesore, but it can have a seriously negative impact on wildlife and human health. Every year, thousands of marine animals such as whales, dolphins, sea turtles, seals and sharks die from entanglement or ingestion of marine debris. For years now, we have been working with the local communities on an ongoing effort to remove rubbish from our beaches. More recently we have started a weekly collection of litter coordinated by Women's Groups in two of the villages on Vamizi. This year, we also joined with groups around the world for the International Coastal Clean Up Day, in a global effort to spend one day cleaning up our beaches. Staff members from the private villas, lodge, and conservation and community team worked together with groups from the community, spending

a whole morning collecting over 90 sacks of rubbish from the 3 villages on Vamizi. The turn-out was great, and it was hugely satisfying to see a big effort made to protect the island's beaches. ■



# CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY

Vamizi offers plenty of opportunities to immerse yourself in Nature, while remaining active and learning every step of the way. Whether you want to spend some time with our conservation team on a snorkle or turtle patrol, or enjoy a visit to the local communities, there is something for everyone.

Here are some of the activities available on Vamizi to participate in our ongoing projects:

## NATURE WALK

One of the best ways to see the amazing birdlife found on Vamizi, as well as the famous Samango monkeys and various reptile and butterfly species. The walk starts behind the Marine Conservation and Research Centre, crossing the width of the island all the way to Munto Nkulo, where you will find a beautiful inlet surrounded by mangrove trees, home to a breeding pair of African Fishing Eagles.



## MARINE BIOLOGIST FOR A DAY

For passionate divers and conservationists, we offer the chance to learn more about our conservation project in more detail and some of the research that is currently underway. Joining our marine biologists in their field work, whether diving or snorkeling, tagging fish or taking samples, you'll get to experience first hand what our team does on a regular basis to understand this rich ecosystem and find new ways to protect it.



## TURTLE PATROL

You are welcome to join our conservation team on a turtle patrol, which happens every morning. We look for new nesting activity, be it a new nest or a nest that just hatched the night before or early that morning. It's a beautiful walk along 11km of beach, with the chance of spotting turtle hatchlings and other animals on your way. The walk can be shortened and with a castaway breakfast at the Lighthouse picnic site.

## COMMUNITY VISIT

Part of what makes Vamizi so special is the amazing people that inhabit it and give it a unique character. A community visit offers the chance to see how the Muani people live, experience traditional weaving and dhow making, and to learn about some of our community projects (the school, clinic, CCP).



## CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

Vamizi is first and foremost a conservation project, and we believe it's important for all of our guests to have the chance to learn about the different initiatives we are working on. Our Conservation and Community Manager, Joana Trindade, will be happy to share with you a short introduction to our C&C projects over a sundowner at the lodge bar or at your villa.

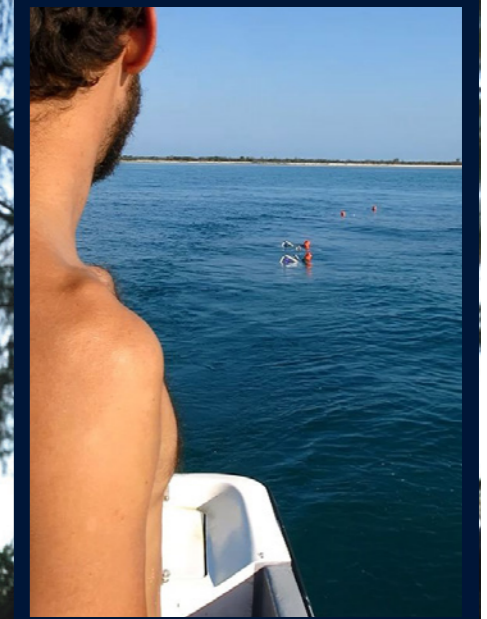


## Annual Coral Spawning

September in Vamizi usually means one thing: coral mass spawning! And this year was no exception. We had the first event of the year in the first week of September. We believe 2015 is a "split spawning" year which means there will be a second spawning event in October. Coral expert Erwan Sola has been studying coral reproduction on Vamizi for several years. This year he has focused on the dispersal of the millions of larvae that are produced during the coral reproductive event. He released 4 drifters fitted with a GPS tracking device to study water circulation during this critical period. His preliminary results show that the larvae are mainly retained close to Vamizi and do not travel far from the point of release, which highlights the importance of the mass spawning for the growth and resilience of Vamizi's reefs. ■

## Learning about Humpback Whales

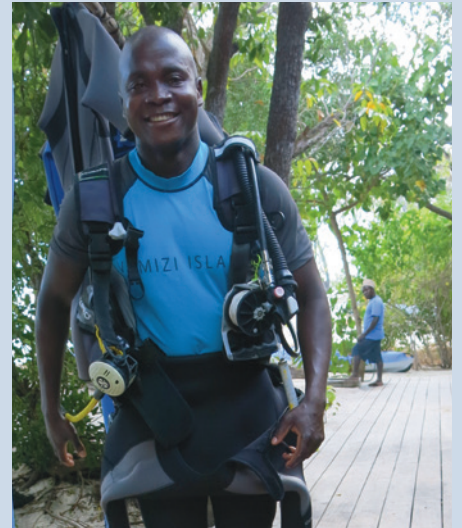
July to October is known as humpback whale season on Vamizi, and this year we have Suzana António joining us from the University of Lúrio. Suzana is writing her thesis for her bachelor's degree, and chose to study the migration patterns of the mighty humpback whale. Each day, Suzana has carried out land observations and recorded the whales' behavior. Suzana also took some time to visit the Vamizi Primary School to teach the children about whales and her work so far. Suzana is excited about her work and the challenge of understanding the whales' fascinating behaviour. We will wait for her findings, and in the meantime keep our eyes in the horizon. ■



# MEET RODRIGUES

Rodrigues Temoto, is our resident dive instructor on Vamizi. He has been here for just over a year, teaching our guests how to dive and taking them on beautiful adventures. Rodrigues decided to become a dive instructor for many different reasons. As a teenager, he became a commercial fisherman, and relied on a fresh catch to make a living. He came to realise that the sea was being depleted, and so decided to do something more sustainable, better for nature. He trained as a PADI dive instructor in the South of Mozambique, where diving is very popular particularly to view the

“Mozambican giants” (the whale shark, for example). Since moving to Vamizi, Rodrigues believes he has found the most beautiful corals and the healthiest reefs in the world. Rodrigues loves working with guests on their diving skills and watching them marvel at Vamizi’s richness every day. Rod still has a passion for spearfishing, but these days he does it only in a very selective and sustainable way, only targeting pelagic species of over 10kg. Rodrigues also sets a great example to other young people that conserving wildlife promises us opportunities for years to come. ■



# PACK FOR A PURPOSE

We are happy to announce that Vamizi has recently joined “Pack for a Purpose” - an initiative that allows travellers to make a lasting impact on the community at their travel destination. By saving a few kilos of space in your suitcase and bringing supplies for the community projects we support on Vamizi, you’ll make a priceless impact on the lives of our local children and families. The list is updated regularly and feedback is sent back to the organizers of the initiative to track the change travellers are making. “Travelling is the only thing you can buy that makes

you richer”; by joining our initiative you are helping enrich the lives of others as well. Visit [www.packforapurpose.org](http://www.packforapurpose.org) to see our list of suggestions before your next visit to Vamizi. ■



# VOLUNTEERING ON VAMIZI

We are happy to welcome another volunteer to our Conservation and Community team. Thomas Lyster is a student from Bristol University, where he is studying languages for his bachelor’s degree. Thomas is half Brazilian, which gives him a great advantage as he can communicate fluently in Portuguese with staff and locals on the island. Thomas has been participating in a variety of activities, joining in on turtle patrols, getting his advanced diving course, helping organize the wildlife clubs and recently helping to plan the celebration of the International Coastal Clean up Day. Thomas has also been offering Portuguese and English language classes, helping to improve literacy and communication on Vamizi. ■

# COMMUNITY MATTERS

Art is one of the things that defines a community, as a tool for the expression of culture, heritage and shared history. For a long time on Vamizi, we have worked alongside the community to encourage ways for the local villagers to share their traditions with our guests, and most importantly, between themselves, be it through song and dance, or the making of handcrafted objects. Recently we joined the women from the Nova Família Group in Lance to an international art project led by a London-based artist for an exciting installation. The ladies are making around 200 pom poms a month out of capulana, a local fabric used around Mozambique and other African countries. Their creations will be added to pom poms hand made around the world to create a global display of traditional fabrics and handicrafts. We’re very excited to see the final result! ■

