

# VAMIZI NEWS

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## Vamizi's Big

# 5



**Vamizi's Big 5 is a group of endangered marine species who seek refuge in our pristine coral reefs and can often be seen by divers.**

Everyone knows Africa's Big Five. But you don't expect to see them on an island like Vamizi. And you won't. On Vamizi, we have our own Big Five. The Green Turtle, the Grey Reef Shark, the Giant Grouper, the Napoleon Wrasse and the Bumphead Parrotfish are all on the IUCN's Red List of endangered species. Their presence in our waters is a very good sign as they play an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. As part of our ongoing species monitoring work, we keep track of their presence in the reefs around Vamizi. And you can help too. We ask every diver to record sightings of

these magnificent creatures using a chart available at the Dive Center. So if you're lucky enough to see the Big 5, be sure to let us know. ■





# ADOPT A GREY REEF SHARK!

In September 2014 we are launching a very exciting project to learn more about Vamizi's famous grey reef sharks. A species on the IUCN Red List and one of the Vamizi Big 5, these magnificent sharks are often seen on Vamizi's reefs and are an important indicator of the health of our marine ecosystem. Freediving World Record Holder and IUCN Oceans Ambassador, William Winram, will be travelling to Vamizi to assist us with a special project to fit satellite tags on 10 grey reef sharks. The data received from these tags will allow us to understand the sharks' movements and breeding habits, providing information which will be invaluable in the bid to protect them. The best part is we are offering Vamizi's loyal followers a chance to be part of this initiative – the first of its kind in East Africa – and adopt a grey reef shark. Packages starting from just \$400 will give sponsors a unique glimpse into the fascinating world of these rare creatures, and even a chance to join William as he dives to fit the tags. For further information, please contact [sharks@vamizi.com](mailto:sharks@vamizi.com) ■

## MEET ARMINDA

Arminda was born in Inhambane, a province in the south of Mozambique, where she first worked in the tourism industry. She joined Vamizi in 2012 and is a dearly loved housekeeper. She takes great care in her work and always looks for small details to make her guests feel at home. She is passionate about Vamizi's turtles and hopes always to live near the sea. Arminda is the life of every party, sharing her amazing energy through laughter and serious dance moves. ■



## COMMUNITY MATTERS



June was a month of celebration in Vamizi. On the 1st we celebrated Children's day, an important national event throughout Mozambique. With funds raised by the Friends of Vamizi Trust, we held a workshop for the children at Aldeia Primary School about the importance of waste management and the harmful effects of litter on health and the environment. The day was filled with dancing and singing, and there was even time for a drawing competition, judged by our island managers and a member of the village Women's Association.

On the 16th we celebrated World Marine Turtle Day. Cardoso, our Chief Conservation Monitor, taught the children about the role of our turtle monitors and the importance of keeping our beaches clean. The day ended with sack races and a team beach clean up. ■