

Conservation

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We believe that there is a crucial link between the preservation of biodiversity on Ibo Island and livelihood. The Quirimbas Archipelago has become one of the world's most sought-after tourist destinations. With pristine beaches, luxurious accommodation, a wealth of water sports, bird watching, mangrove forests and a treasure trove of history and culture, it is not hard to understand why. With this has come a dedicated commitment from all stake holders and Ibo Island Lodge to actively conserve the area's natural environment and maintain the balance of its sensitive ecosystem.

Ibo Island has been nominated as a World Heritage Site and falls within the protected Quirimbas National Park. The mainland section of the Park contains three elephant migratory routes, as well as lion, leopard, buffalo, wild dog, sable antelope, eland, and a number of other large animal species.

The turquoise waters surrounding Ibo provide a protected marine environment for a number of extremely rare species. Feeding and or nesting grounds for several sea turtle species can be found near Ibo, namely loggerhead turtle, green turtle, hawksbill turtle, olive ridley turtle, and leatherbacks. Humpback whales visit the region where they shelter their calves with sightings around Ibo often seen between July and November each year.

Nearly everyone's favorite the delightful dolphin are in abundance and species include common, spinner, bottle nose and humpbacks, although these are more likely to be found frolicking in the mangrove channels around Ibo.

The zambezi shark, tiger shark, blue spotted, sting ray, manta ray, and black and white tip sharks have also been seen.

The view over the sea to the furthest mangrove forests in front of Ibo Island lodge is a bird lovers paradise. Bird watching in Mozambique is outstanding and Ibo Island contains ten red-listed birds: Goliath herons, fish eagles, egrets, flamingos and pelicans are all regular visitors and the tropical

gardens at the lodge support a large range of sunbirds, wood peckers and the beautiful lilac breasted roller.

Other species spotted include the Dimorphic Egret, Western Reef Heron, Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers , Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Brown-breasted Barbet, Eurasian Oystercatchers, Mangrove Kingfisher and the Madagascar Bee-eater.

With such a varied range of biodiversity and as a result of Ibo Island's Lodge community and conservation initiatives, the lodge has attracted the support of many organisations including Equator Ventures, a collaboration between Conservation International and the United Nations Development Program's Equator Initiative. The programme combines loan finance and enterprise development support for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) which guard biodiversity and improve rural incomes.

To date our team of volunteers and mentors has trained 60 students in English literacy, hospitality and responsible tourism. Approximately 38 local people from Ibo are employed full time in the lodge. Only 3 had prior tourism experience. ...

By visiting Ibo Island Lodge one of Africa's most undiscovered places, you help ensure that this precious region is protected for generations ahead to enjoy.

International Support

With such a varied range of biodiversity, Ibo Island lodge has also attracted the support and interest of many organizations:

Conservation International and the United Nations Development Program's Equator Initiative have recently joined forces in a new program called, Equator Ventures. This program combines loan finance and enterprise development support for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) which conserve critical biodiversity and improve rural incomes.

Due to Ibo Island Lodge and our projects commitment to protect the natural and historic heritage of Ibo and the Quirimbas, Equator Ventures will make its first investment in the Ibo Island Lodge and Safaris project. The investment, a combination of loan and grant financing, will enable us to achieve long term, sustainable means of generating income and benefits to the local communities on Ibo Island, and to implement and manage programs that provide training, mentorship and education. These projects ensure that sensitive ecosystems and biodiversity of the region with an emphasis on coastal, tidal, coral, mangrove and marine resources are protected.

Mozambique is located within the Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa's Hotspot. To learn more about Conservation International, please visit: www.conservation.org.

The Equator Ventures initiative is committed to demonstrating that biodiversity SMEs are good investments and a driving force towards ecologically-sound and equitable development. Equator Ventures is capitalized by grants and loans from the public and private sector. Equator Ventures also monitors critical biodiversity and socio-economic impacts. The competitive advantage springs from a unique combination of sector expertise, monitoring capability, and extensive local presence. To learn more, please visit www.equatorinitiative.org.

The Equator Initiative is a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partnership that brings together the United Nations, civil society, business, governments, and communities to support local conservation initiatives. Since 2001, the Equator Initiative has mobilized close to \$10 million, established the recognized Equator Prize, and hosted over 60 international forums.