

News, Travel & Events

Mission Blue Inhambane Seascape Hope Spot



Mission Blue has just declared in February 2022 that the Inhambane Seascape will be a Hope Spot in recognition of the spatial planning work being done in the area to develop a network of marine protected areas (MPA) in the surrounding waters.

Founded by legendary oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle, “Mission Blue is uniting a global coalition to inspire an upwelling of public awareness, access, and support for a worldwide network of marine protected areas – Hope Spots.”

Mission Blue acknowledges

the Marine Megafauna Foundation and their partners’ work assisting the government of Mozambique as they strive to meet the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to formally protect 30% of its marine resources by 2030.

Dr. Sylvia Earle says, “Mozambique as a country has already taken significant actions to safeguard the extraordinarily rich, highly important life along the coastline. Everything is on the line. There’s an opportunity now to significantly scale up and embrace those areas that are already protected

with a larger area along the coast that connects the land with the ocean beyond. I particularly want to salute Andrea Marshall and her team at the Marine Megafauna Foundation—they work with so many large creatures that are so important and so threatened. We’re on the edge of losing them forever unless action is taken now.”

Andrea Marshall and her team at the Marine Megafauna Foundation were especially singled out by Earle. Marshall has spent 20 years in Mozambique and has dedicated her life to supporting the conservation

of endangered marine megafauna species. “Our overarching goal is to use science to underpin the comprehensive management of the protected areas that currently exist and provide justification for the expansion of those areas and new adjoining areas along the coastline,” she says.

To ensure the viability of long-term conservation efforts across the seascape, MMF is helping these MPA managers to design science-based strategies for at-risk marine megafauna species.

www.mission-blue.org/hope-spots

Medfoto, International Photography Contest Of The Mediterranean Sea

MedFoto sets out, not only to add to our existing knowledge about the marine environment, but also to conserve it by publicising the photos collected for the competition.

Two institutions collaborate to carry out the only international photography competition in the Mediterranean, MedFoto. Alive Foundation (alivefund.org), an entity that promotes marine research and the dissemination of knowledge about this environment to improve its management and conservation, and the Club Nàutic de L'Escala, (nauticescala.com), which works to promote sustainable sports on the Costa Brava.

The Mediterranean Sea is rich in cultural and historical value. It is an environment of both work and recreation for people, as well as being the habitat of the thousands of species of animals and plants that make up its extraordinary landscape. Both the human uses and the environment have to be able to coexist for the enjoyment of present and future generations. MedFoto was born to reinforce the fragile relationship between people and the sea and both raise awareness about the natural values of the marine environment and encourage everyone



who goes to the sea, be it for business or pleasure, to adopt a responsible attitude.

The event calls on both professional and amateur photographers to enter innovative and inspiring images that show marine diversity and the relationship between human beings and the Mediterranean Sea on the theme: the sea and its people.

The competition accepts photographs dedicated to all aspects



This wave came roaring, a very close contender. Photo: Francisco Javier García.

A monkfish juvenile in its pelagic state, last year's overall winner, from the underwater category. Photo: Xavier Salvador.

of the sea, taken on the surface and underwater, in seven different categories; landscape, wildlife, sports and leisure, marine trades, underwater photography, conservation and climate change, and mobile phone images. In addition, there are two special categories, Costa Brava and L'Escala, and a special prize for under 16s. In total, MedFoto awards 4,000 euros across the different categories.

Amateur and professional photographers who want to participate

can submit up to 15 photographs in any of the seven categories of the contest. The rules will be published on 1 February on the contest website (www.medfoto.org), and the registration and submission period for the images will be open from 1 April to 15 May.

<https://medfoto.org/?lang=en>



BIUPC 2022 will be on 3rd September 2022

BIUPC engages the British and Irish underwater photography communities in a one day photography shoot out. It is accessible to people who live and dive at different locations around Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Northern Ireland and England, including the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly and the other 5000 or so other islands around our shores that are bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the English

Channel and the North Sea. A late August/ early September on-the-day multi-location competition format reduces the travel and cost burden for competitors, whilst encouraging participation commensurate with a championship.

Photographers compete for a trophy in memory of one of BSoUP's co-founders, the late Peter Scoones, and the title British & Irish Underwater Photography Champion.

<https://bsoup.org.uk/competitions/the-british-irish-underwater-photography-championship/>

Wakatobi prepares to reopen



There are growing signs that travel to Indonesia is returning to normal. Communications from the government indicate a lifting of current travel restrictions by or before Easter of this year.

The first international flights from carriers such as Singapore Airlines are now landing in Bali; this will certainly increase quickly with the elimination of quarantines.

Wakatobi has also started to prepare for reopening. While the resort has been well maintained throughout, it is now time to start bringing our staff members from other parts of Indonesia and abroad back to the island so we can once again delight our guests in the same spirit that has made Wakatobi loved and celebrated.

All the positive news has prompted an enthusiastic response

from our global community, and our reservations team has received numerous requests for bookings. If you are considering travel to the resort, we suggest you contact us as soon as possible to secure a booking or schedule a date for a postponed booking. 2023 time slots are filling up quickly with a combination of new reservations and postponed dates.

Every member of the Wakatobi team feels a deep appreciation for the patience and loyalty of our clients. Your understanding these past two years is what has kept us going and we sincerely say "thank you" for standing by us.

As we return to normal operation, we look forward to welcoming our treasured guests and friends. We are all excited to see you!

www.wakatobi.com

www.uwpmag.com

Galápagos Islands with Magnus Lundgren

14 - 25 October 2023



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Magnus says "I often meet spectacular marine animals around the Galápagos Islands. All the big action around Darwin and Wolf islands is a given. But it is much more than that. It can be Mola molas (sunfishes) at a dedicated cleaning station, maybe penguins swim by at Vicente Rocca or we visit a special spot where we dive with the unique marine iguanas.

There are so many things to see and experience in Galápagos such as dolphins, eagle rays, flightless cormorants underwater, sea horses, red-lipped batfishes, horn sharks and many more creatures that are waiting for our visit."

Join underwater photographer Magnus Lundgren when he leads this expedition to the stunning archipelago that fascinated Darwin 1835.

Interested to join the trip of a lifetime?

Contact Daniel at Scuba Travel as there will only be a very limited number of available seats.

daniel@scubatravel.se

www.uwpmag.com

Atmosphere Resort, Philippines April 20-30, 2022



Treat yourself to a stay at the finest luxury boutique resort in the Philippines, set amongst the beautiful exotic grounds of Atmosphere Resort and Spa. Experience world-class diving, both for rare and unique macro critters nearby and spectacular, lush coral reefs at world-famous Apo Island a short boat ride away.

Join Backscatter photo pro Vijay Raman on a fun-filled Backscatter Underwater Photography Workshop at Atmosphere Resort, that is sure to help you step up your game and help you bring back amazing images you'll be proud of. Beginners and advanced shooters alike will find something to inspire and advance their photography skills over the course of the ten-day workshop.

The Dauin coastline, where Atmosphere Resort is situated, is

a macro photographer's paradise. Exquisite and rare creatures will captivate the discerning photographer with muck diving that will rival the best of the best. Nearby Apo Island will offer world-class diving on its stunning reefs and walls, blanketed with healthy corals and teeming with a profusion of fish, turtles and other marine life. You won't want to miss out on the critters revealed during the night dives or a mandarin fish dive at dusk.

Late May to early June is what is considered the peak of the macro baby boom, with many animals carrying eggs and lots of juvenile species; a great time to capture unique behavior shots. It is also the peak season for frogfish and pipefish.

www.backscatter.com

Sea Shepherd 2022 science with Dr. John Payne

With your help, Sea Shepherd is kicking off 2022 by expanding our science and conservation work globally.

Say hello to our new Director of Science, Dr. John Payne, PhD who will be partnering with committed, passionate people all over the world to bring world-class science to our global mission to protect marine wildlife. John is an ecologist with field experience in marine and terrestrial environments in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, and he specializes in population modeling, animal telemetry, and AI modeling.

Our Science program is already working with Ship Operations and Conservation to plan joint campaigns to stop illegal fishing and protect our precious marine ecosystems, while also helping to sustain research and local conservation efforts.

And now with Dr. Payne on board, 2022 will be an exciting year for Sea Shepherd Science!

DONATE NOW and your support will allow research vessels like Martin Sheen to work off the Pacific Coast of Mexico for the 7th year in a row, with expeditions to the biologically important Guadalupe Island and Revillagigedo Islands Marine Protected Areas. A second survey of endangered Amazonian



dolphins is planned in the spring by Sea Shepherd Brazil, and Italian researchers are aiming to publish the latest work from the Operation Siso Campaign in the Mediterranean, which removed illegal fish aggregating devices. Dr. Payne will be growing a scientific network to help plan research on other Sea Shepherd ships and in many locations, including the Caribbean and West Africa.

All of this work is made possible by your generosity and shared commitment to protecting marine wildlife. If you haven't already done so, we ask that you please consider including Sea Shepherd in your end-of-year giving so our ships, scientists, and crew can protect as many species as possible!

For the ocean,
Captains, Crew and Sea
Shepherd Staff

www.seashepherd.org

www.uwpmag.com



DIVE PHOTO GUIDE
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Photography Competition

SUBMISSIONS OPEN FROM 1ST MARCH 2022

www.unworldoceansday.org

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