



BITONGA DIVERS  
Inhambane

# Bitonga Divers

## Community of Mahila

*Mahila has raised extra expectations among communities we have been working.*



Community of Mahila is one of those who depend on fishing for income and food source due to its geographic localization. *I have to walk only about half an hour to get on the beach where our fishing boats are says Fernando Nhautsi the head of Mahila fishermen..* Mahila is where

the famous Praia da Rocha is, which is a sanctuary, in harmony with its environment, its shores lapped by warm tropical waters in mesmerizing aquamarine and blues and indigenous coastal bush spans the undulating dunes.

Bitonga Divers and Praia da Rocha executive management joined forces to best approach and address awareness and conservation to the fishermen of Mahila for the benefit of all. Since this action has been impossible mission. *Praia da Rocha project started in 2007 and is been very difficult having relationship with the community since then says Chris Greathead PR manager.*

We started by conducting a workshop that was meant to be 16 (sixteen) fishermen attending, surprisingly we had in the end 22 (twenty two) something that does not happen when dealing with

fishermen. Workshop was all about conservation best fishing practices tourism and HIV prevention.

They entirely understood our message about marine resources that they have and the need of keeping them to attract tourism investors in the area and best fishing practices.

Now, they decided to create a maternity area of fishing. While the fishermen of Mahila are still deciding where maternity will be, we are working on pressuring another communities to take the same action, using Mahila as an example.



### *Underwater world*

*You are more likely to conserve what you like and you can only like what you know! Mozambique has nearly 2800 km of very little explored coastline, crystal waters, various biodiversity. We want Mozambicans to discover the underwater world of their own country and benefit from its resources in sustained manner. Our goals are to promote marine conservation in local communities and train locals on professional Scuba Diving industry.*





VILLAGE TALKS STILL THE MAIN TOOL THAT WE HAVE TO



The community of Maunza is the one we visited most times. Last time we were to Maunza we had all our questionnaires answered right and we even ran out of questions to give but at the same time we got to know how much it takes to get a fishing community to learn why conservation.

cost us hard work but that is our commitment though the big question still remain.

How do these communities can get income for their survival?

For this, we need lodge owners to collaborate with the community, giving priority to the community members when selecting their staff, considering their social responsibility as the main tool to gain respect from community.



As result we had few people coming to us and ask to be members of Bitonga Divers and learn to Scuba Dive so they can understand the underwater world and maybe get jobs on the diving industry.

In meantime our team is helping the communities fishermen to get organized by small fishing groups called CCPs (Conselho Comunitario das Pescas) that will help them to know how many they are and to easily identified if anybody is willing to help them, and, by groups we will help them create another source of income beside fishing, in bad weather conditions.

Now, Maunza understand why our team is working on conservation along the communities. But, that is Maunza community we still have long way to go, lot more communities to visit more and more times until they get the message and that will

*Feugiat: Duis aute in voluptate veli  
Liber: Pruca beynocguon doas no  
nam liber te conscient to factor tum.*

NUMBER OF MANTA RAYS, SHARKS AND WHALE SHARKS IS DECREASING

Shark fins



I really do not know what these guys do with these fins, says the fisherman Armando from Ligogo.



Shark



Manta Ray

There are some reports of chinese market in Tofo for Manta gill racks as well.

WE BELIEVE IN CHANGES

We interviewed some fishermen outside the area that we cover with our village talks, fishermen there still do not know what are shark fins are used for and where they go after they have sold them out. Though, we have limited funding sources we need to find a way to reach these places with our village talks once and while.





OUR CANDIDATES`

We bet for Rodrigues Timoteo, Gungulo, Carla Guicome and Helio for july this year to do their instructor course.

They already received their candidate work materials for the examination and they have been doing very well with their studies which makes us believe they will all make it to the level of Diving instructors in which it will take us to number of 9 (nine) instructors trained in Bitonga Divers program.

While the studding for the instructor course is taking a place our Dive Masters candidates are also working on getting their DM qualifications done by the same period of instructors examination in july.

Our goal is double this numbers by the end of 2014. In the mean time we are working on applying another training related to tourism such as Swimming, life guarding and Skippers.



We train Mozambicans so they can get good jobs in the tourism industry, our candidate get direct benefit from tourism after their training and get jobs but, we are also working on communities to help them creating alternative base of sustainability so they can indirectly benefit from tourism.

Ideas will include de making of handicrafts, chicken farming and cooling system for the fishermen.



WE BELIEVE IN CHANGES

At this moment we are working on implementing this ideas in one of the community, and in the future we will implement the same practice in some other communities using the experience we will gain in the fist one.

## OCEAN REVOLUTION MOZAMBIQUE

### The association has its purposes:

To carry out studies, research and projects that stimulate the development of, and help establish economically sustainable and environmentally responsibly Mozambican owned businesses especially



in coastal tourism sector.

To promote, ensure and safeguard the rights and increase the competitiveness of these businesses.

To promote education, training and professionalization of Mozambican for employment (especially in coastal tourism businesses) owned by foreign investors with the



aim of making these businesses more economically just and

environmentally responsible.

To promote interaction among these professionals with local communities and business sectors aiming to develop an exchange of economic, educational, professional and cultural opportunities that will result in job-creation for rural Mozambicans through the growth and sustainability of Mozambican-owned small and medium enterprise.

To help strengthen existing community organizations, non-governmental organizations, or other non-lucrative enterprises (or to help establish new ones) that encourage the responsible utilization of natural resources.

To help communities and organizations submit proposals under existing law (or lobby for new law) giving them co-management responsibilities with government of Mozambique Ministries for health utilization of natural resources.

To link actions and opportunities created by the promotion of environmentally responsible and economically sustainable businesses with the missions of national and international donors to provide outside stimulation and networks to further build the growth of these businesses through soliciting grants, scholarships fellowships and other partnerships for Mozambican individuals and



organizations.

To link and promote interactions with faculty, students and staff of global academic institutions and the faculty students and staff of Mozambican institutions as regards research, study and projects intended to improve the health of the western Indian Ocean and communities depending on its resources for food, and cultural security.

