



Caravelas - Rua Barão do Rio Branco, 125
Centro - BA - Cep: 45.900-000 - Tel: +55 73 3297 1340
Skype: ibj.Caravelas

Praia do Forte - Avenida do Farol, 2907 - Caixa postal 92
Mata de São João - BA - Cep: 48.280-971 - Tel: +55 71 3676 1463
Skype: ibj.PraiaDoForte

PRAIA DO FORTE DECLARATION

WHALE WATCHING IN LATIN AMERICA: MARINE CONSERVATION AND REVENUE GENERATION TO BE DEFENDED AT INTERNATIONAL FORA

CONSIDERING that Whale Watching has become established in a large number of coastal communities around the world, particularly in Latin America, where it provides for significant revenue to these communities and their countries, besides offering platforms of opportunity for non-lethal cetacean research and the widest possible opportunity for education and awareness-raising, among the general public, about these animals and their environment;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that in the vast majority of cases the development of this Tourism modality has progressed in a sustainable way, as proven by the continuous presence of whales in tourism use areas and the significant growth in most whale populations subject to it;

AWARE of the need to strictly follow rules and regulations for the activity as key to ensure its quality, sustainability and long-term viability;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the persistence of pressures from whaling countries to resume the large-scale killing of whales in international waters, through the abusive use of government subsidies and political pressure against vulnerable countries at international agreements, even as this activity is manifestly unsustainable, unnecessary for the Economy of such countries, and damaging to our interests in Latin America;

NOTING that besides the International Whaling Commission, several other international instruments where our nations are represented can strengthen the



Caravelas - Rua Barão do Rio Branco, 125
Centro - BA - Cep: 45.900-000 - Tel: +55 73 3297 1340
Skype: ibj.Caravelas

Praia do Forte - Avenida do Farol, 2907 - Caixa postal 92
Mata de São João - BA - Cep: 48.280-971 - Tel: +55 71 3676 1463
Skype: ibj.PraiaDoForte

protection of whales, of the marine environment and of our interests in Whale Watching, such as the Migratory Species Convention and the process of implementation of Goal 14 - Oceans - of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the ongoing negotiations to achieve a new agreement on the conservation of high seas biodiversity;

The business owners and Tourism professionals, scientists, environmental activists, students and other citizens interested in the development of Ecotourism and ocean conservation, gathered at the Latin American Symposium on Whale Watching, held at the Brazilian Humpback Whale Institute, Praia do Forte, Bahia, Brazil, August 3-5, 2017:

REAFFIRM the importance of Whale Watching as a conservation and socio-economic development tool for the coastal communities of Latin America, and as a legitimate appropriation of marine biodiversity values, which must be protected against other uses which might damage these values;

ASK governments of our region and civil society stakeholders to continue generating and strengthening regional cooperation instruments and actions, aiming at maximizing the promotion of Latin America as a Whale Watching destination and the generation of benefits for our coastal communities, and request that relevant international organizations provide support for these efforts;

REITERATE their compromise with the sustainable development of the activity and with abiding by the rules and codes of conduct to ensure the quality of operations and the protection of target animals and their environment;

REQUEST our nation's diplomatic representatives from Latin America to reiterate their position at relevant international for a in favour of non-lethal uses of cetaceans, adequate protection of their environment, and full opposition to any hunting of these animals;



Caravelas - Rua Barão do Rio Branco, 125
Centro - BA - Cep: 45.900-000 - Tel: +55 73 3297 1340
Skype: ibj.Caravelas

Praia do Forte - Avenida do Farol, 2907 - Caixa postal 92
Mata de São João - BA - Cep: 48.280-971 - Tel: +55 71 3676 1463
Skype: ibj.PraiaDoForte

FURTHER REQUEST public authorities in the several levels of government in Latin America to decisively support the development of Whale Watching in our communities, providing the means for capacity-building, structuring and promoting the activities where needed; and

ASK the Brazilian Humpback Whale Institute, as host to this Symposium, to request Brazilian diplomatic representatives at the International Whaling Commission, the Convention on Migratory Species and other relevant international agreements to formally present this Praia do Forte Declaration, in order for it to become part of their deliberations in relation to this subject.

Praia do Forte, Bahia, Brazil, August 5, 2017.