



Whale Heritage Sites

Initial Candidate Application

Thank you for your interest in joining the Whale Heritage Site programme. We are very excited to learn about your location and the reasons that you feel your area and community would make a great Whale Heritage Site (WHS).

The WHS programme formally recognises destinations around the world that support local communities and demonstrate the importance of cetaceans through responsible and sustainable practices, culture, education, research and conservation.

We encourage applications from communities and organisations that advocate for collaboration; celebrate the connection between cetaceans and both locals and tourists alike; and actively promote the preservation of cetaceans and marine habitats for the benefit of present and future generations.

Be aware that the certification process consists of five steps, of which filling out this online application form is the first one. In order to increase the chances of your application being successful, please make sure that you have read the criteria, familiarised yourself with the process and understood the necessary requirements and improvements that you may need to make through the certification process.

Please note that you will be able to return to your application form as many times as you like. Before exiting the form, you must complete the page you were working on, and click "Next", to ensure the information is saved. Before sending the form, make sure that you have provided all the information needed to support your application.

Once completed, applications are assessed by the WCA Secretariat and, if necessary, by the relevant Regional Coordinator to ensure that the information provided is accurate and has met the standards required to become a Candidate Site.

If you need any additional assistance, please do contact us at elizabeth.cuevas@worldcetaceanalliance.org

Q1 Contact information

Name:

Position/Title:

Organisation:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Q2 Describe the geographical boundaries of the proposed Whale Heritage Site and please provide the coordinates that delimit the area. This must include both a land and sea/freshwater area as applicable. An e-mail address will be provided at the end of this survey should you wish to submit maps or other documentation.

Q3 Describe how the geographical boundaries defined for the proposed Whale Heritage Site are appropriate to maximise the benefit to both people and cetaceans? Max 300 words.

Q4 Describe which species of cetaceans (whales, dolphins, or porpoises) are seen within the proposed Whale Heritage Site?

Q5 Which months of the year are cetaceans regularly seen within the proposed Whale Heritage Site?

Q6 Describe the types of interactions or activities that currently exist between people and cetaceans in the proposed WHS? Max 300 words

Q7 Indicate which of the following are of potential conservation and welfare concern for cetaceans within the proposed Whale Heritage Site.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pollution | <input type="checkbox"/> Entanglement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ship strikes | <input type="checkbox"/> Whale or dolphin hunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whale or dolphin captivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing practices (including by-catch) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harassment | <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean temperature rise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean plastics | Other (please specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean acidification | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise pollution | |

Q8 Which of the above factors do you believe require the most urgent action to prevent further negative or catastrophic effects? Can you suggest possible successful strategies to address these factors?

Q9 Are there any captive cetacean facilities near the proposed Whale Heritage Site?

Yes No **If yes, please elaborate:**

Q10 Does whaling occur near the proposed Whale Heritage Site?

Yes No **If yes, please elaborate:**

Q11 Whale Heritage Sites incorporate the following four criteria: 1) Encouraging respectful human-cetacean coexistence; 2) Celebrating cetaceans; 3) Environmental, social and economic sustainability; 4) Research, education and awareness. Does the proposed Whale Heritage Site aspire to meeting these criteria?

Yes No

Q12 Describe how the proposed Whale Heritage Site has developed, and seeks to continually improve, responsible whale and dolphin watching practices? Max 300 words.

Q13 Describe how the proposed Whale Heritage Site celebrates the cultural association between cetaceans and people e.g. events, exhibitions, festivals, museums, etc. Max 300 words.

Q14 Describe how the proposed Whale Heritage Site is having a positive impact on the livelihoods and incomes of communities associated with cetaceans? Max 300 words.

Q15 Describe any current sustainability initiatives operating within the proposed Whale Heritage Site? Max 300 words.

Q16 Describe how the proposed Whale Heritage Site demonstrates its commitment towards cetacean research, education and awareness? Max 300 words.

Q17 Considering the above criteria, are there any areas where you feel the site needs more support?

Q18 Please provide any available information on the number of domestic and international tourists visiting the proposed Whale Heritage Site annually? Max 300 words.

Q19 Please describe your motivation to apply for and receive Whale Heritage Site status:

Q20 What benefits would you like to see brought to the proposed Whale Heritage Site as a result of certification? Max 300 words.

Q21 How are you planning to fund the application on an annual basis? Max 300 words.

Q22 Is there any other information you would like us to know to support your application? Max 300 words.

Q23 If you have any documents to support your application, please upload them to a file sharing platform (such as Dropbox or WeTransfer) and insert a link to them here:

Or, please send them to elizabeth.cuevas@worldcetaceanalliance.org

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application form. The information you have provided will be assessed, and you will be contacted once a decision has been made.