

Submission of Scientific Information to Describe the Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in Angola for the workshop in Namibia.

Title/Name of the area: Ramiros – Palmerinhas Coastal Area of Conservation near Mussulo Peninsula Island

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Abstract: It is a proposal to declare the Area as an area for marine conservation, so that present and future generations can do their marine investigations there. So to avoid the degradation of the area, it must have signs, no fishing, must have fences and cars must not be driven there.

Introduction

The Blue Whales (Balaenoptera musculus) found dead in the mangroves forest of Ramiro – Palmerinhas coastal area migrates from Antarctic in direction to the Atlantic Ocean, which is linked to the Panama Canal in America and the Suez Canal in Africa reaching in turn the European Continent. The Atlantic Ocean is the second largest Ocean in the world. It occupies 82.2 million Km² and has a medium depth of 3.300m. Angola is bathed by the Atlantic Ocean and has a coast line of 1650 Km.

The Blue whales are registered as vulnerable species in the world, being so they navigate the Atlantic seas of Angola, where they are found some times, in some cases are found dead in the Angolan coast for reasons that needs investigations.

The migratory period of the Blue Whales, is influenced by the climatic changes (warm or cold seasons) and oil pollution which occur in the Oceans. We emphasize the Blue Whales are found in all the Oceans of the Planet. However, the Whales do some seasonal migrations in cold and warm seas rich with food such as krill and little fish to feed themselves.

Gestation and maturity stages of Whales:

Blue Whales are Mammals they feed their new born by throwing on the sea the adult female fatty milk where the new born will suck the milk, because fatty milk and water do not mix. Blue Whales reach sexual maturity from 7 or 8 years and gestation can last for 12 months then gives birth to a new born with 7 or 8 meters with more than two tonne. During the first seven months of life, the Blue Whales babies take about 380 liters of milk daily. The Blue Whales babies gain rapidly a weight of 91kg in every 24 hours. They are the biggest and the heaviest animals on earth, can live between 80 to 90 years.

The Blue Whales male's reproductive organ can measure 3 meters long. The largest Blue Whale measured by a scientist of the American Laboratory of Marine Mammals measured 29,9 meters long, equivalent to the length of a Boeing 737. However, it is important to emphasize that the Blue Whale stomach is divided into three (3) compartments to play the following roles:

I° Compartment:

- *It stores and fragments (decompose) food such as the Antarctic small crustaceans “ Krills ”*

II° Compartment:

- *It deals with the digestion of the food;*

III° Compartment:

- *It deals with the absorption of the food*

The Blue Whales have small opening on top, on their heads which can only be seen in a short period of time when they swim. This opening can throw out water up to nine meters upright.

It is also important to say, the Blue Whale is the most noisy animal in the world. They can emit sounds in lower frequency which can reach up to 188 decibel stronger than the sounds of a jet plane which can be heard up to 800 kilometers of distance. However, it is crucial that we do more scientific studies on the migration and occurrence of Blue Whales on the Angolan coast, so that we can better inform the public about the biology and behaviors of these marine mammals.

So we will know the measures to use during migration period, in order to create a technical team of expert from the following Angolan Institutions: Angolan Marine Police, Angolan Port Authorities, Angolan History and Culture Museum, and other Marine Investigation Institutions linked to the Public and Private sector. The out come of the studies done shows that we need to map and specify the migratory period of the Whales on the Angolan coast, so that we can inform the crew of the big oil tankers using the Angolan coast. As we know other species of whales and dolphins are found dead on the Angolan coast.

We also request to visit the countries which have Whales Sanctuary such as Russia and Finland on the Antarctic coast, so that we exchange experiences.

The following are some of the abundant marine species and the Blue Whale skeleton found dead in the mangroves of the coast of Ramiro near the Mussulo Peninsula Island in Luanda.



Photo1. Blue whale (Balaenoptera musculus)

Photo 2. Sea snails (Nassarius pachytilus)

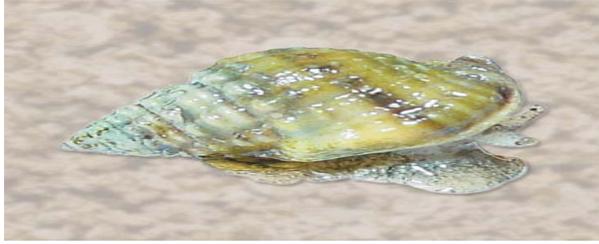


Photo 3. Red crab (Chaceon maritae)



Location

Ramiros – Palmerinhas coast surrounded by mangroves is located to the south of Luanda city coast near the estuarine of Kwanza River, Mussulo Peninsula Island and Cazanga Island. It is part of the Provincial Government of Luanda.

The following are the pictures of the estuarine of Kwanza River near Ramiro – Palmerinhas coast with characteristics to be a marine reserve.



[Photo4. Kwanza river and its estuarine near Mussulo Peninsula Island in Luanda](#)



Photo5. The Islands around Ramiro Marine Coast in Luanda

The economic importance of the Blue Whale found dead on the Ramiro coast and the International View Point for the protections of Whales.

All whales are in danger of extinction and vulnerable, so whales get killed in some parts of the world by fishermen, or accidentally get killed by oil tankers especially in Angola of which we do not know yet the reasons behind it.

During middle age and the 18 century, whales were killed to obtain the meat, oil, fat and bones. Tones of oil is used to make bathing soaps, margarines, candles, lubricants for textile industries, cosmetics and the oil from the lungs is rich in vitamin A.

Classification of the Blue Whale

- Common name: **Blue Whale**
- Family: **Balaenopteridae**
- Scientific Name: **Balaenoptera musculus**
- Phylum: **Chordata**
- Subphylum: **Vertabrata**
- Class: **Mammalia**
- Order: **Cetacea**

Ramiro – Palmerinhas coast in Luanda City - Angola, is not yet a marine conservation area so it is in danger of degradation due to human activities and lack of environmental education awayness. According to what is stipulated internationally the area has all requirements to be a marine reserve or conservation area.

Feature description of the proposed area

This is my first field work I did at Ramiro – Palmerinhas Coast surrounded by mangroves, red crabs also use the Ramiro coast to breed, sea snails and migratory birds. There is a paved road on the way to the crabs nursery ground with a plain land which covers it with sea waters during high tides.

Feature condition and future outlook of the proposed area

It is slowly degradeting due to public activities and cars driven on the coast of Ramiro – Palmerinhas to Mussulo Peninsula Island. It has been proposed to be a marine conservation area.

Assessment of the area against CBD EBSA Criteria

CBD EBSA Criteria (Annex I to decision IX/20)	Description (Annex I to decision IX/20)	Ranking of criterion relevance (please mark one column with an X)			
		Don't Know	Low	Some	High
Uniqueness or rarity	Area contains either (i) unique (“the only one of its kind”), rare (occurs only in few locations) or endemic species, populations or communities, and/or (ii) unique, rare or distinct, habitats or ecosystems; and/or (iii) unique or unusual geomorphological or oceanographic features.		X	X	
<i>Explanation for ranking</i>					
Special importance for life-history stages of species	Areas that are required for a population to survive and thrive. (For Red Crabs to survive at Ramiro – Palmerinhas Coast in Luanda – Angola)				X
<i>Explanation for ranking</i>					
Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats	Area containing habitat for the survival and recovery of endangered, threatened, declining species or area with significant assemblages of such species.			X	X
<i>Explanation for ranking</i>					
Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery	Areas that contain a relatively high proportion of sensitive habitats, biotopes or species that are functionally fragile (highly susceptible to degradation or depletion by human activity or by natural events) or with slow recovery.				X
<i>Explanation for ranking</i>					
Biological productivity	Area containing species, populations or communities with comparatively higher natural biological productivity.				X
<i>Explanation for ranking</i>					

Biological diversity	Area contains comparatively higher diversity of ecosystems, habitats, communities, or species, or has higher genetic diversity.				X
<i>Explanation for ranking</i>					
Naturalness	Area with a comparatively higher degree of naturalness as a result of the lack of or low level of human-induced disturbance or degradation.			X	
<i>Explanation for ranking</i>					

Sharing experiences and information applying other criteria (Optional)

Other Criteria	Description	Ranking of criterion relevance (please mark one column with an X)			
		Don't Know	Low	Some	High
<i>Add relevant criteria</i>					X
<i>Explanation for ranking</i>					

References

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Maps and Figures

For the maps and figures see picture 5 above is showing the geographical area of Ramiro – Palmerinhas Coast and the Islands (Ilhas).

Angolan Marine Informations

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