

Declaration
Tourism Operators of Cetacean Watching of Latin America and the Caribbean
Supporting the Non-lethal Whale and Dolphin Conservation
(SUBMITTED BY URUGUAY)

CONSIDERING

The last 15 years of cetacean watching (of whales and dolphins) in Latin America have shown a strong and constant growth, reaching almost 1.4 million observers;

That this activity represents an annual growth of 11.3% (1998-2006) in Latin America, being 3 times more than the world average, generating more than USD \$278 millions in total income;

That this activity, under legal standards of quality and responsibility, contributes to the scientific research, demographic monitoring and collection of vital information relating to the whale watching;

That among the great majority of the countries of America Latina there exist official rules to regulate observations, and in some cases there even exist behavioral codes elaborated by the same tour operator;

That the observations of dolphins and whales have been revitalising communities and whole coastal regions, pointing to a financial interest as well as personal one in whale-watching and the conservation of cetaceans and the sea;

That in several countries of the region, guides and captains dedicated to watching the cetaceans have established associations and similar groups to carry out effective activities addressing the lucrative aspect of this activity as well as the focus on species protection;

That 13 from 19 countries that carry out whale-watching tourism in America Latina are members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and a lot of them have delegations that contribute actively to cetacean-watching and research of whales and dolphins.

That all the countries from Latin America have signed the covenant relating to biological diversity that supports the sustainable use of the resources of wildlife through cetacean watching and different kinds of wildlife tourism.

That more than 30 NGOs of the Latin-American and the Caribbean region work actively for the conservation of whales and promotion of responsible tourism of cetaceans through research, training, environmental education and political pressure.

That finally this activity gives numerous values and benefits which comes from watching itself: educational, scientific, quality of life, financial-historical-cultural, recreation, patrimonial-social-esthetic, spiritual-psychological, politics, environmental quality, ecological services.

RECOGNISING

The positive declaration of the Group of Buenos Aires, comprising the government delegates of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, México, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay, the member countries of the IWC and government representatives of Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Venezuela, who came together in Santo Domingo Heredia, Costa Rica, between 18 and 20 May, 2010;

The signature commits these governmental representatives to: a) The conservation of whales, b) The maintenance of the whaling ban in existence since 1986, c) The promotion of no-lethal practices on whales, d) Respect towards the integrity of the IWC Whale Sanctuaries, e) The creation of the Whale Sanctuary of the South Atlantic according to clause 48 of Appendix A of the document IWC/62/7rev, and f) The necessity of modernizing and making more efficient the performance of the IWC;

The importance of integrating private actors, guides, operators, ship-owners, captains and tourism entrepreneurs of cetacean watching, on the management and manifestos relating to the conservation of whales and dolphins, which shows a strong commitment to the codes of good behaviour and good environmental practices in America Latina;

AS SUCH

The undersigned ask the Plenary Committee of the IWC for the following:

1. The maintenance of the moratorium that has existed since 1986 (zero commercial whaling),
2. Respect of the Whale Sanctuaries already existing in international waters and recognised by the IWC.
3. The creation of a Whale Sanctuary in the South Atlantic (paragraph 48 in Appendix A, IWC/62/7rev),
4. The promotion of non-lethal use of whales and specifically responsible watching, under the highest quality standards, and
5. The necessity of modernizing the IWC and making it more efficient.

Signed:

ARGENTINA

SERGIO FERNANDEZ	ESTACIÓN MARÍTIMA COMMERSIONII SRL, CHUBUT
RICARDO D. ORRI	WHALES ARGENTINA SRL, CHUBUT
CLAUDIO BARBIERI	COTA CERO BUCEO, RIO NEGRO
CLAUDIO TEMPORELLI	EXCURSIONES DE NATURALEZA "LOS VIKINGOS" SANTA CRUZ

BRASIL

RAFAEL RAMIRES DA ROSA	ROTA TROPICAL TURISMO, MORRO DE SÃO PAULO - BAHIA
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PAULO SAPIENZA	CENTRO TURÍSTICO, PRAIA DO FORTE - BAHIA
PAULO LIMONCIC	PORTO MAR, PRAIA DO FORTE - BAHIA
THAIS HOKOC MOURA DE MELO	CIA DO MAR, PORTO SEGURO - BAHIA
DOMINGOS PAULO DA SILVA	DIVESILVA, ITACARÉ - BAHIA
RONALDO RAIMUNDO MORAIS	ABROLHOS TURISMO, CARAVELAS – BAHIA
JAQUELINE STABILE DE SOUZA	HORIZONTE ABERTO, CARAVELAS - BAHIA

CHILE

RAUL HERRERA	CHINCHORRO EXPEDICIONES E.I.R.L
LUZ MARIA OYARZO	NATIVA ECOTURISMO MARINO
FRANCISCO ALTAMIRANO	BAHIA PUNIHUIL
GENARO BARRIA	EMPRESA ARCHIPIÉLAGOS DE LA PATAGONIA

COLOMBIA

ENRIQUE GARCÍA REYES	POSADA TURÍSTICA ROCAS DE CABO MARZO CHOCÓ
GONZALO TRUJILLO	CABAÑAS PIJIBÁ LODGE, CHOCÓ
GUILLERMO GÓMEZ FERNÁNDEZ	EL CANTIL ECOLODGE, CHOCÓ
JAVIER MONTOYA	ECOLODGE MORROMICO, CHOCÓ
RODRIGO FAJARDO	POSADA DEL MAR, BAHÍA SOLANO
ROSEMBERG MOSQUERA	CABAÑA LA BALLENA JOROBADA, BAHÍA SOLANO
GILDARDO RESTREPO	CABAÑAS PLAYA ALEGRE, BAHÍA SOLANO
BETTY RIVAS	CAMACHO.POSADA PUNTAROCA, BAHÍA SOLANO
JUAN CARLOS ECHEVERRY	POSADA COCOLOCO SURF, BAHÍA SOLANO
HORACIO GIRÓN	POSADA DEL NEGRO, BAHÍA SOLANO
GENARO AYALA RIVAS	CABAÑA BRISAS DEL MAR, BAHÍA SOLANO
CARLINA TORRES	POSADA FRENTE AL MAR, BAHÍA SOLANO
OMAIRA BADILLO VALOIS	POSADA PLAYA POTES, BAHÍA SOLANO
ADELA HERNÁNDEZ	JARDÍN BOTÁNICO DEL PACÍFICO, BAHÍA SOLANO
TEODATO LEMUS	POSADA EL MARAÑÓN, BAHÍA SOLANO
ENRIQUE ROA RIVAS	POSADA EL NATIVO, BAHÍA SOLANO
EULOGIO RUIZ	POSADA LAS BOYAS, BAHÍA SOLANO
GLORIA HERNÁNDEZ	CABAÑA MARLIN AZUL, BAHÍA SOLANO
CLODOMIRO POTES	POSADA TURÍSTICA OKENDO, BAHÍA SOLANO
MARÍA CASTAÑEDA	HOTEL LA FRONTERA, BAHÍA SOLANO
ALBERTO PÍO ESCOBAR LÓPEZ	LANCHA VILLA GRACE, VALLE
SAMUEL GAMBOA D'CROS	BAHÍA MAR LANCHAS, VALLE
JULIO CESAR DUGUID.	BAHÍA MAR LANCHAS, VALLE
ERVIN GAMBOA	BAHÍA MAR LANCHAS, VALLE
ISAÍAS GAMBOA	BAHÍA MAR LANCHAS, VALLE
JOAQUÍN CUERO	BAHÍA MAR LANCHAS, VALLE
MARTHA FLÓREZ	BAHÍA MAR LANCHAS, VALLE

HERNANDO MARÍN	BAHÍA DEL SOL LADRILLEROS, VALLE
GLICELLY ARBOLEDA	BAHÍA DEL SOL LADRILLEROS, VALLE
MELKIN MARÍN	BAHÍA DEL SOL LADRILLEROS, VALLE
NOHORA CARDONA	BAHÍA DEL SOL LADRILLEROS, VALLE

COSTA RICA

OTTO GEESINK	HOTEL EL MONO FELIZ
WALDEMAR STEINER	HOTEL CRISTAL BALLENA RESORT
FERNANDO GUERRERO CHAVARRIA	PACIFIC WHALES AND KAYAK TOURS CONSEJO REGIONAL ACOSA CONSEJO NACIONAL AC
LUZ BADILLA CORDERO	PACIFIC WHALES AND KAYAK TOURS
CARLOS ESTEBAN GUERRERO OSPINA	ESC. SAN CECILIA
MARTA DESROSIERS	MAR Y SELVA ECOLOGUE
LUC VAN WEZEL	HOTEL VILLAS GAIA
JOSE ALBERTO MESEN QUIROS	PELICAN TOURS
LEONEL CASTILLO MORALES	DOLPHIN TOURS
JOSE ANGEL QUESADA MIRANDA	CAVERNAS TOURS
ENDRE MANUEL VASQUEZ UMAÑA	BAHIA BALLENA TOURS
KENNETH LOPEZ HERNANDEZ	WINSHEALE TOURS
MARLENE BADILLA CORDERO	PURA VIDA TOURS
CARLOS MAURICIO QUESADA MORA	DOLPHIN TOURS
CHARLIE ANTONIO LEON AGUILAR	DOLPHIN TOURS
EDUARDO QUESADA MORA	DOLPHIN TOURS
MARIA ELENA BADILLA CORDERO	PACIFIC WHALES AND KAYAK TOURS
JUNIOR MONGE HERNANDEZ	PURA VIDA TOURS
RONALD MONGE GODINEZ	PACIFIC WHALES AND KAYAK TOURS
WILSON MONGE GODINEZ	FRAGATA TOURS
RAFAEL SANCHEZ ROSALES	GURRION TOURS FRAGATA TOURS BAHIA AVENTURAS

ECUADOR

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XAVIER NOEL PONCE	CENTRO DE AVENTURAS ANDES-ADRENALINA CÍA. LTD.
CARLOS JULIO PARRALES M.	CERCAPEZ CÍA. LTD.
MICHEL GUERRERO M.	EXPLORADIVING ISLA DE LA PLATA Y BUCEO ECOLÓGICO

KETTY BONILLA IZURIETA	EXCURSIONES PACÍFICO CÍA. LTDA.
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JOSÉ RIVERA GONZÁLEZ	LA PLATA TOURS CIA. LTD.
FAUSTO CHOES CASTRO	MACHALILLA TOURS
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DAVID MORA	GRUPO ARRECIFE (COOPERATIVA DE PESCADORES DE SAN JUAN DEL SUR)
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WILFREDO BENJAMIN	TRANSPORTE HERMANOS BENJAMIN, SAMANA

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