



The Indigo Origin Story

The fishing community of Mangalisse once poached seahorses *en masse* for traffickers for potions like rhino horns.

In 2018, ParCo launched a campaign to spread the word about the Biodiversity Law of Mozambique that prohibits catching seahorses and teaching about what makes them special.

Within days, a community informant reported a visit by traffickers. They were jailed with almost two thousand dried seahorses in their backpacks!

The community decided then and there to try eco-turismo instead of poaching to stay out of jail and help the local marine ecosystem thrive.

The Indigo Seahorse Adventure gives former poachers a way to earn income from seahorse conservation through eco-tourism.

***Indigo means seahorse in the local language, Xitswa.**



Seahorse fun facts

- Seahorses are small marine fish in the genus *Hippocampus*.
- 50 species in the world, **3 in the Bazaruto seascape (see below)**.
- 3 to 8 inches, 7 to 20 centimeters in height.
- 5 year life span.
- They swim upright using dorsal fins. Pectoral fins are to maneuver.
- They are Monogamous (in captivity, we're not sure about the wild).
- **Males carry babies! Female deposits eggs into male's pouch.**
- Their predators are crabs, fish and rays.
- They eat plankton by slurping through their snouts.

GIRAFFE SEAHORSE
H. camelopardalis

IUCN Red List: Data Deficient
Locally: Somewhat rare

SPOTTED SEAHORSE
H. kuda

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
Locally: Very common

THORNY SEAHORSE
H. histrix

IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
Locally: Very rare