forestry, fisheries & the environment
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

MINISTER DR DION GEORGE WELCOMES MARINE DYNAMICS' TRIUMPH AT ATTA MARINE IMPACT AWARD

24 June 2025

The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Dr Dion George, extends heartfelt congratulations to Marine Dynamics Shark and Whale Tours for their outstanding achievement in securing the ATTA Marine Impact Award at the Experience Africa Travel Conference in London on 23 June 2025.

This prestigious accolade recognises Marine Dynamics' unwavering dedication to protecting South Africa's marine and coastal ecosystems while advancing sustainable tourism and community empowerment. Their pioneering efforts in shark cage diving, whale-watching, marine science, education, and pollution initiatives, coupled with contributions to over 30 peer-reviewed scientific papers, position them as a global leader in responsible eco-tourism.

"Marine Dynamics' success demonstrates the transformative power of integrating conservation with tourism," Dr Dion George remarked. "Their work not only preserves our marine heritage but also inspires communities and visitors to become champions of ocean stewardship. South Africa stands proud on the global stage due to their leadership."

Marine Dynamics' holistic approach, through initiatives such as the Dyer Island Conservation Trust, the African Penguin & Seabird Sanctuary, and the Marine Dynamics Academy, exemplifies how tourism can drive environmental stewardship and uplift local communities. This award celebrates their 25 years of impactful work and solidifies South Africa's reputation as a premier destination for conservation-focused travel.

Additionally, Dr Dion George noted that the Department is in the final stages of finalising bunkering regulations to further safeguard South Africa's penguin populations and marine ecosystems. These measures reflect the government's commitment to preserving the nation's biodiversity for future generations.

"Marine Dynamics' achievement fills South Africa with pride," Dr Dion George added. "Their efforts invigorate collective resolve to ensure our oceans remain vibrant and thriving for years to come."

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