Dear Fair Trade Tourism friends

The past few months have been exciting for Fair Trade Tourism with over 30 new product certifications being announced, all of them complying with our + 200 responsible tourism criteria. See our criteria here. In May, we launched our Membership Programme that is designed to broaden our sustainability impact, bring more businesses into the Fair Trade Tourism value chain and contribute to more inclusive growth of the tourism industry.

In April and May, we attended WTM Africa and Tourism Indaba and were gratified to see how many tour operators are starting to seek out responsible tourism businesses to support. See our list of approved tour operators here.

We were also thrilled to see that Fair Trade Tourism certified businesses dominated WTM's Responsible Tourism Awards with congratulations going to Coffee Shack Backpackers, The Backpack, and UthandoSA. Read more about the Awards here.

New additions to the Fair Trade Tourism portfolio

Shamwari Game Reserve
Set on 25,000ha of reclaimed farmland, Shamwari Game Reserve is home to six five-star lodges, a wilderness bush camp and a volunteer programme. Read more

Cascade Country Manor

Cascade Country Manor is a four-star establishment outside Paarl in the Cape winelands which has become a renowned wedding destination. Read more

Oyster Bay Lodge

Oyster Bay Lodge, tucked away on a 235ha coastal reserve close to St Francis Bay in the Eastern Cape, boasts extensive birdlife and is home to 20 free-roaming horses. Read more

TransFrontier Parks Destinations (TFPD)
TransFrontier Parks Destinations (TFPD) operates community-owned tourism facilities in Transfrontier Parks and adjacent conservation areas. The Group has eight African Ivory Route camps, as well as !Xaus Lodge, Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge, Nahakwe Lodge, Awelani Lodge and Moonglow Guest House within its portfolio. Read more

Parker Cottage Guesthouse and Travels

Parker Cottage Guesthouse and Travels is situated in Cape Town's Tamboerskloof and is an elegant, affordable, and responsible tourism option. Read more

Coffeebeans Routes
Coffeebeans Routes invites visitors to explore the heart and soul of Cape Town and Johannesburg while connecting around art, music and food. Read more

Hotel Verde

Hotel Verde situated close to Cape Town International Airport is a four-star city hotel that has set the benchmark in environmental practices. Its distinctive offerings include green conferencing, a weekly earth hour, power-generating gym equipment and rewards for sustainable practices during your stay. Read more

Rhino Walking Safaris
Rhino Walking Safaris (RWS) is situated on a private wilderness concession in the south eastern section of the Kruger National Park. Plains Camp is an intimate camp with only 4 safari tents while on its doorstep, just a 20 minute game drive away is Rhino Post Safari Lodge offering 8 suites with canvas walls and thatched roofs. Read more

Blue Oyster Hotel

The Blue Oyster Hotel has been certified by our partner in Tanzania, Responsible Tourism Tanzania (RTTZ). This cosy family-run hotel is situated in Jambiani, a small traditional fishing village on the south-east coast of Zanzibar and is focused on environmental and community responsibility. Read more
Fair Trade Tourism MD Jane Edge, congratulates AKTE on its 40th year.

**AKTE’s celebrates its 40th birthday**

Fair Trade Tourism would like to congratulate AKTE, one of the world's oldest sustainable tourism NGOs on its 40th birthday this year!

"It is initiatives like AKTE that formed the primeval soup from which FTTSA was born.” Manuel Bollmann

**Belgium Development Agency (BTC) supports Fair Trade Tourism**

Fair Trade Tourism is working with the Belgium Development Agency (BTC) to promote SMMEs working in responsible tourism and to promote trade between sustainable tourism supplies and buyers. A series of workshops for small tourism businesses is being planned over the next few months. This worthy project is being run under the auspices of BTC’s Trade for Development Centre (TDC).

**FTT Certified Responsible Tourism Awards 2017 Winners**

**Coffee Shack Backpackers**- Overall Winner and Gold for Best Accommodation for Social Inclusion.
The Backpack - Received Silver for the Best Accommodation for Social Inclusion award.

UThandoSA - Received Gold for Best Tour Operator for Impact in Urban Areas.

Hotel Verde - Won WTM Africa’s Best Responsible Stand Award

**Rewarding Excellence**

**WTM Africa Responsible Tourism Awards**

Fair Trade Tourism businesses dominated these awards held on 20 April, with Coffee Shack being announced overall joint winner, along with the graphic documentary film Blood Lions.

**Stormsriver Adventures Rewards 10 Years of Service**

Stormsriver recently had two of their employees completing their 10 year service with them. Pam Zondani - Marketing Manager, handed over their certificates, cash prices and badges.

**INNIBOS National Craft Awards 2017**
Madi a Thavha mountain lodge has assisted 32 Limpopo crafters to enter the prestigious Innibos National Craft Awards. Three of these entries made the shortlist of 50 works that will be exhibited at the Innibos festival in Mpumalanga from 5-8 July. They are local woodcarvers Justice Mugwena, Lucky Makamu and bead-on-textile worker Kheilah Ngobeni.

Ocean and Marine Life

Marine Dynamics report Orca (Killer Whale) predation on Great White Sharks - a first in South Africa

May was a trying time for the team of Marine Dynamics and the Dyer Island Conservation Trust. Their team was called out to retrieve three dead white sharks - female of 4.9m and two males at 3.6 and 4.5m - all these identified from their extensive database.

Shark biologists Alison Towner and Kelly Baker, assisted by Dr Malcolm Smale, and with the permission of the Department of Environmental Affairs did the dissections on site in Gansbaai. All three sharks had consistent bite wounds and were found to be missing their livers. This indicates what is known of orca predation as they attack and stun the shark into tonic immobility and the buoyant liver rises to the surface through the injury. The squalene rich liver is the only part that the orcas appear interested in although one male shark was also missing a heart.

This is the first time worldwide that a white shark has been dissected after an orca predation and this the first official observation of orca predation on white sharks in South Africa. We now have confirmation that orcas pose a threat to our already
vulnerable population of great white sharks.

Read more here

White Shark Projects presents the ABC's of Shark Cage Diving.

The concept of shark cage diving is far more simple and definitely far less scary than people imagine it to be. Below are the ABC’s of Shark Cage Diving:

“A” stands for ANTI-SEASICK TABLETS

“B” stands for BATHING SUIT!

“C” stands for COOL, CALM and COLLECTED, plus COMMON SENSE.

The hardest part of Shark Cage Diving is putting on your wetsuit. You do not need to be able to swim in order to shark cage dive, all you have to be able to do is hold your breath under water, as if washing your hair in the bath!

Sharks are very curious animals, so be ready to be surprised by their inquisitive intelligence, immense power and calm majesty.

Remember you are incredibly lucky to see these magnificent beasts there are only 3000–5000 left on this planet. At the rate humans are harvesting sharks, combined with their slow reproductive rate, great white sharks may not be around for much longer.

Above all, rule number 1 is always: Choose a Fair Trade in Tourism certified company and you can be assured that you have made the most responsible choice.

Be Inspired by the amazing work of our clients

Bahia Mar Boutique Hotel
Bahia Mar Boutique Hotel along with VILA DO PARAISO are sponsoring the participation of the "Mothassane Mermaids" in the annual Big Blue Vilankulo Annual Sailfish Competition in an effort to raise awareness and funds for a community project – read more

Shamwari Game Reserve

On the 1st of October 2016, tragedy struck at the door of Eunice Nyamakazi, a long-standing Shamwari staff member when she lost all her belongings and possessions in a house fire. Shamwari has undertaken to build her a new home with funds raised from staff members. If you would like to contribute contact Claire Radloff on socialmedia@shamwari.com
Sani Lodge Backpackers’ tour company Drakensberg Adventures has helped built two new classrooms for two neighbouring schools. With a portion of the money paid for each tour, Drakensberg Adventures contributes to a school fund that has slowly built up. October 2016 saw the opening of the first school with the opening of the second in April 2017. For more information email info@sanilodge.co.za.

Spier

The Wildlands initiative, Tree-preneurs, has empowered over 100 people from some of the Cape’s poorest communities to change their lives by swopping trees for cash and household goods. Lesley Joemat, a Spier employee visits growers in eight impoverished
communities across the province to distribute seedlings, containers, soil and compost, and to offer advice on growing trees. For more information contact Marina Vermeulen on MarinaV@spier.co.za

**Something New**

*Kololo Game Reserve*’s Giraffe population prospering with the the birth of a new little one.

In 2004, there were no giraffes on the property but the owners have invested in reintroducing wildlife and giraffe was on top of that list!

**Travel Specials**

Planning a Winter getaway to the Klein Karoo? *De Zeekeoe Guest Farm* is a beautifully restored colonial homestead, with breathtaking surroundings.

Stay at De Zeekeoe, stay for 3 nights and only pay for two. Special valid from May-September 2017.

**Out and about**

Join *The Peech Boutique Hotel* for an evening of great food and wine pairing with RAKA WINE on Thursday 27 July.

For more information and to make a booking, contact reservations@thepeech.co.za.