

### **Project Update: March 2014**

We started doing the transect surveys to study the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin. The research area is from Goukamma to Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Due to the extent of the area we launch from three different locations (Knysna, Plettenberg Bay and Storms River). The area is frequently visited by many other marine mammals that will be also recorded and photographed during the field work.

In February 2014, we deployed two hydrophones in Robberg MPA and Keurbooms area. These hydrophones will be constantly recording vocalisations from the animals that visit the Bay during the year. In April 2014, we will deploy an extra hydrophone and service the others. We will also allocate seven satellite tags on few dolphins to study their movement patterns along the east coast of South Africa. By June we will start collecting genetic samples to determine how distinct are the pods visiting the area at different times during the year.

