



WCS Madagascar

A Wildlife Conservation Society Program

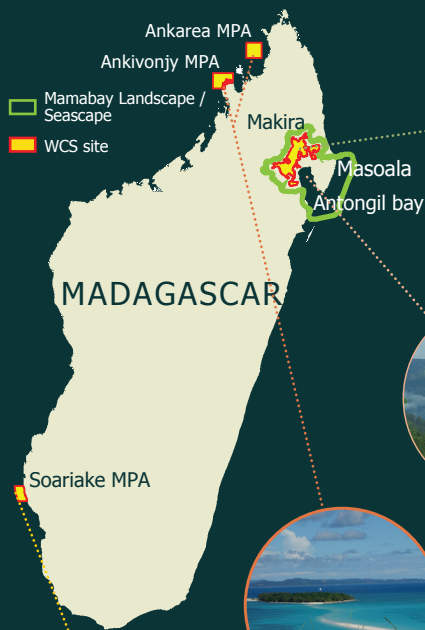
DISCOVER – PROTECT – INSPIRE

The **WCS** Madagascar Program has been working in Madagascar since 1993 to ensure the long-term conservation of the country's unique biological diversity with a focus on activities in our priority **landscapes and seascapes**

LAND/SEA SCAPES

We help conserve four globally important areas

carrying out holistic site-based conservation involving research, protected area design and management, and community conservation.



Makira Natural Park



Humid forest ecosystems



Fosa



Antongil Bay



Coral reef ecosystems



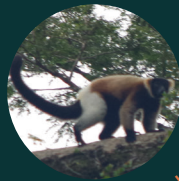
Northwest Seascape



Sharks & Rays



Southwest Seascape



Red-ruffed lemur



COMMUNITY HEALTH & EDUCATION INITIATIVES



Silky sifaka



Humpback whale



CONSERVATION ENTERPRISES



ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



CLIMATE CHANGE



WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

SPECIES & ECOSYSTEMS

We focus our species conservation on **seven priority taxa**

chosen for their ecological importance, degree of threat, endemism, iconic status, value in sparking action as flagship species, as well as historical and global links with WCS.

APPROACH

Key aspects of our conservation work include

- Advocacy
- Priority setting
- Landuse planning
- Research & Monitoring
- Law enforcement support
- Education/awareness-raising
- Training/capacity building
- Community/livelihood support
- Protected area management
- Community-based natural resources management

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

During our 24 years in Madagascar

- Spatial planning of Madagascar's terrestrial and marine protected area networks
- Creation and management of five terrestrial and marine protected areas covering over 700,000 hectares
- Working with local communities to develop sustainable, natural resource based livelihoods that reduce pressure on biodiversity
- Engagement with 100,000 people in local communities living around protected areas to support them to become effective stewards of natural resources
- Environmental education and human health initiatives focusing on youth, women and children with over 3,000 children, who have benefited from WCS's environmental education program

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

We address important global challenges at the national level

These include quantifying the value provided by habitats and species, mitigating threats posed by extractive industries and climate change, and tackling the pervasive trade in wildlife and wildlife products.



MaMaBay Landscape/Seascape

Makira Natural Park, Masoala National Park, and Antongil Bay. Epicenter of Madagascar's unique biodiversity

- Home to 20 percent of Madagascar's biodiversity
- +1 million hectares of land and sea
- Makira forest, the largest remaining tract of pristine eastern rainforest in Madagascar that supports an estimated 90,000 people

WCS conservation actions include:

- Management of 372,470 hectares of Makira Natural Park
- Technical assistance to Masoala National Park
- Establishment of 26 marine reserves around Antongil Bay
- Forest restoration
- Research on habitats and species
- Partnership with private sectors on sale of carbon credit from avoided deforestation; ecotourism; and Wildlife Friendly certified products
- Community-based natural resource management
- Applied conservation science and research on Madagascar's emblematic lemur species, 17 of which are found in WCS managed protected areas

Southwest and Northwest Seascapes

The Toliara seascape in the southwest

- Part of one of the biggest reef complexes in the world extending on 458 kilometers between Androaka and Morombe
- Home to at least 13 species of sharks, 4 species of marine turtles, and 11 species of cetaceans

The Nosy Be seascape in the northwest

- Home to the second most diverse coral populations on the planet at Nosy Mitsio with the highest coral species richness yet reported for the Western Indian Ocean
- Nosy Iranja, the most important nesting site for green turtles in Madagascar

WCS is a leading technical partner helping the Government of Madagascar meet its commitment to expand the country's network of marine protected areas and to sustain nearshore fisheries.

WCS conservation actions include:

- Creation and management of three MPAs: Soariake MPA (southwest), and Ankivonjy and Ankarea MPAs (northwest)
- Developing legal frameworks to grant exclusive access to resources to local fishing communities
- Empowerment of local communities to take greater responsibility for marine resource management
- Training and equipping of community surveillance
- Livelihoods support to develop aquaculture activities and relieve pressure on coral reef ecosystems
- Environmental education to raise awareness of the links between over-fishing, food security and climate change
- Applied conservation research to feed adaptive protected area management models

Conservation Science

WCS is committed to science-based conservation and research activities that focus on the presence and threats to the emblematic Silky Sifaka and Indri lemurs, the drivers of bushmeat hunting by local communities in Makira Natural Park, the status of endemic carnivore species, optimization of connectivity between marine protected areas, and threats and conservation strategies for sharks, rays, and dugongs. REBIOMA (<http://www.rebioma.net>) is a web-based tool developed by WCS that aims to promote the use of biodiversity data and tools in systematic conservation planning including climate change analysis.



Technology for Better Conservation

To help protected area managers to better monitor, evaluate and adaptively manage their patrolling activities, WCS is leading trainings on the use of the Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART) throughout Madagascar. WCS is also piloting the use of high resolution images to measure changes in the forestation rates and monitor incursions into protected areas.

Environmental Education and Health

Our integrated health and conservation education program aims to empower local populations to build awareness, knowledge and skills to sustain a healthy environment and assure human wellbeing. Activities include the use of internet technology and social media to engage youth, rural youth conservation clubs, youth radio broadcasting, professional development training, media outreach through radioprogramming, magazine production, and cultural and environmental festivals. Our integrated health and nutrition program is focused on youth reproductive health, healthy nutrition and hygiene for school children, and advice on basic animal health and good veterinary practices.

