

NOSY BE SEASCAPE, NORTHWEST MADAGASCAR



INTRODUCTION

The Nosy Be Seascape in the northwest of Madagascar forms part of the marine biodiversity center of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). Its coral ecosystems have exceptional value in terms of biodiversity, with high coral cover, a high number of coral species, and high natural resilience to climate change. A high diversity of sharks - 23 species identified, including whale sharks, and abundant populations of coastal dolphins (7 species identified), blue whales, humpback whales, sperm whales, beaked whales, and the Omura's whale also live in this seascape. The seascape contains the most important nesting site for green turtles and hawksbill turtles in Madagascar and is one of the few areas within Madagascar and the WIO to harbor critically endangered sawfish. In addition, it is a major seabird area in the WIO with important sites for several species of seagulls (*Larus dominicanus*, *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*) and habitat islands for the endemic and critically endangered Madagascar fish-eagle.

This exceptional marine biodiversity of Nosy Be Seascape is facing a number of threats including: unsustainable fishing practices by local fishers and industrial fleets, poaching and trafficking of marine turtles, oil and gas exploration and planned drilling, a growing tourism industry, mangrove destruction for charcoal production, and climate change impacts.

WCS'S ACTIVITIES

In order to secure healthy marine ecosystems that support the surrounding local communities' wellbeing and to increase marine protected area (MPA) coverage in Madagascar, WCS has been involved in the establishment of MPAs in Nosy Be Seascape for over a decade. WCS led the creation of the Sahamalaza-Radama Islands National Park. Since 2010, WCS has been working with local communities and the government in the Nosy Be Seascape to create and manage, on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Ecology, and Forests, two MPAs: Ankarea and Ankivonjy which together cover more than 274,965 hectares and which were granted permanent protection status from the Government of Madagascar in 2015.

BENEFICIARIES AND CONSERVATION TARGETS

- Ankivonjy and Ankarea Associations including local communities living around the two MPAs
- Shark and rays, dugong, coral reefs

MAIN DONORS

- John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust
- The Tiffany & Co. Foundation

PROJECT PARTNERS

GRET - Kelonia - Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines (IHSM) - Direction Régionale des Ressources Halieutiques et de la Pêche (DRRHP) Antsiranana - Centre de Surveillance de la Pêche (CSP) Antananarivo and Antsiranana - Circonscription des Ressources Halieutiques et de la Pêche (CiRHP) Nosy Be - Centre National des Recherches Océanographiques (CNRO)

For on ground conservation measures, WCS develops and leads applied researches on species distribution, abundance, threats, relationship with socio-economics of local communities, and related conservation measures. WCS also ensures social and ecological surveys and monitoring and works closely with local communities in patrols and surveillance activities and mangrove restoration.

One key component of WCS activities along with permanent awareness-raising is capacity building of local stakeholders to better involve them in the outstanding biodiversity protection of the Northwest. WCS also supports local communities that co-manage the MPAs in terms of governance, law enforcement, and fish catch monitoring.

WCS with government and NGOs partner established a new fisheries management plan for the BATAN zone (Bays of Ampasindava, Tsimipaika, Ambaro, and the archipelago of Nosy Be) in early 2018 as part of the application of good governance of fisheries in the northwestern part of the island.

METHOD AND TOOLS APPLIED IN THE SITE

1. Participative approaches on law enforcement using SMART conservation software and fish catch monitoring
2. Research on conservation targets and related threats
3. Awareness raising and environmental education through media communication and events
4. Capacity building of community MPA managers
5. Partnership with private sector partners
6. Alternative livelihoods for local communities using value chain approaches

MILESTONES

- **1999:** Research on the seascape biodiversity from Sahamalaza Iles Radama to Mitsio Island
- **2010:** Commencement of the creation of Ankarea and Ankivonjy MPAs
- **2012:** Formalization of Ankarea and Ankivonjy MPAs local management committees
- **2014:** Formalization of the Dina (traditional social conventions) for Ankarea and Ankivonjy MPAs
- **2015:** Ankarea and Ankivonjy MPAs received permanent protection status from the Government of Madagascar
- **2018:** Fisheries Management Plan for the BATAN zone (Bays of Ampasindava, Tsimipaika, Ambaro, and the archipelago of Nosy Be)



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