

THE MAMABAY LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE



INTRODUCTION

Comprising Makira Natural Park, Masoala National Park, and Antongil Bay, MaMaBay, in the northeast of Madagascar, is the country's last great wilderness and the epicenter of the island's unique biodiversity. Covering over 1.8 million ha MaMaBay contains the largest intact stands of mid to low elevation forest, the highest diversity of lemurs in the country, half of Madagascar's remaining coastal forest and a quarter of its lowland forest, as well as coral reefs, mangroves, and wetlands. Its remarkable diversity of intact ecological systems supports habitats teeming with wildlife and provides ecosystem services vital to both humans and the region's plants and animals.

The forests of Masoala and Makira are home to a remarkably high number of endangered and rare flora and fauna species such as Silky Sifaka lemurs, Red Owls, endemic *Fosa*, and Madagascar Pitcher Plants, while Antongil Bay thrives with fish, sharks, turtles, dolphins, and serves as an important breeding, calving, and nursery areas for Humpback Whales.

The MaMaBay area is nationally important for production of rice, vanilla and cloves. MaMaBay's forests provide timber and other forest products to around 230,000 rural people and safeguard their livelihoods by protecting watersheds, preventing flooding in the plains, and reducing over-sedimentation of the Bay. Fish harvests from Antongil Bay support thousands of households.

Human demands on the landscape –from slash-and-burn agriculture, bushmeat hunting, and unsustainable fishing– challenge the integrity of MaMaBay's intact forests and reefs, in turn jeopardizing the human and wildlife communities they support.

Working for more than 20 years in MaMaBay, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and our partners have an ambitious vision for the conservation of Madagascar's last great wilderness whereby MaMaBay's abundant and diverse flora and fauna –including lemurs, fosa, humpback whales, and sharks– thrive in contiguous and protected forests, mangroves, and coral reefs, buffered and connected by community areas that support sustainable forestry, agriculture, and fisheries.

Milestones

- 1997: Masoala National Park was created and a MoU was signed between Zoo Zurich and the Government of Madagascar in relation to its future financial sustainability.
- 2007: Masoala National Park was designated as a World Heritage Site.
- 2007 onwards: 27 locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) were established around Antongil Bay.
- 2008: An agreement with the Government of Madagascar was signed to appoint Makira Carbon Company as the exclusive agent for the marketing and sale of at least 32.5 million metric tons of emission reduction credits from the Makira Carbon Project.
- 2012: Makira Natural Park was formally created and WCS named as the delegated manager.
- 2013: First sales of Makira carbon credits
- 2013: The Antongil Bay Fisheries Management Plan was formally adopted by the Government giving access rights to local fishers in LMMAs in Antongil Bay.
- 2013: The "Living Environmental Campus" in Maroantsetra was opened.
- 2014: The PCDDBA, a local association dedicated to the future sustainability of Antongil Bay was awarded the United Nations Equator Prize.
- 2015: The Simpona Ecodge in Makira Natural Park was opened.
- 2015: The Federation of Fishermen of the Antongil Bay was officially recognized by the Region and the Ministry of Marine Resources and Fisheries.



Methods and Tools Applied in MaMaBay

- Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to monitor, evaluate and adaptively manage patrolling and biomonitoring activities in marine and terrestrial protected areas
- Basic Necessities Survey (BNS) to monitor the impact of activities on household wellbeing
- Natural Resources Governance Tool (NRGT) to monitor ability of community associations to sustainably manage natural resources
- Aerial orthophotography to monitor deforestation rate and forest fragmentation indices
- REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) carbon financing for Makira Natural Park
- Public-private partnerships for the development of business opportunities for local associations

WCS'S ACTIVITIES IN MAMABAY

WCS's activities are multi-faceted and cover both terrestrial and marine areas:

- Management of the Makira Natural Park in collaboration with local communities including a comprehensive field-based system of surveillance, law enforcement monitoring, and ecological monitoring.
- Long-term restoration and maintenance of critical forestry corridors with the support of different partners and the local population to ensure the ecological integrity of MaMaBay's forests.
- Support to the establishment and operation of a network of community-based natural resources management sites in the green belt of the Makira Natural Park and for LMMAs around Antongil Bay.
- Support to communities to improve subsistence livelihoods (rice, fish farming and honey production) and to develop sustainable and certified cash crops through the promotion of conservation enterprises in raffia, tourism, cocoa, vanilla and cloves.
- Provision of technical support to Masoala National Park on SMART law enforcement monitoring, community engagement, and community-based natural resource management.
- Support to the development of a network of locally managed marine areas (LMMA) in Antongil Bay and provision of technical and financial assistance to communities to patrol their locally marine reserves and to carry out long-term ecological and fish productivity monitoring.
- Implementation of an integrated health and conservation education program across the Mamabay Landscape/Seascape that aims to empower local populations to build awareness, knowledge and skills to sustain a healthy environment and assure human wellbeing.

With our landscape/seascape program activities we aim to contribute to the following sustainable development goals:



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Our Partners in MaMaBay:

Ministry of Environment, Ecology, and Forests (MEEF)—Ministry of Marine Resources and Fisheries (MRHP)—The Territorial Decentralized Communities with the 6 districts of Maroantsetra, Mananara, Mandritsara, Befandriana Nord, Andapa and Antalaha—The Collaborative Platform for Sustainable Development of the Antongil Bay (PCDDBA) – The Federation of Fishermen in Antongil Bay (FPBA) – 71 community associations around Makira Natural Park—27 community managers of LMMAs —Basic Health Centers in Maroantsetra— Antongil Conservation—Madagascar National Parks (MNP)—Friends of Masoala (FOM)— Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) – The Darwin Initiative— Madagascar Biodiversity Fund (FAPBM)—GRET—Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation—Tany Meva Foundation—The John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation—The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust – Zoo de Zurich (ZZ)—The Waterloo Foundation—Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID) – U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)—WWF/USAID – Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) – Association of Zoos and Aquariums Conservation Grants Funds (AZA)—GEF Satoyama—Association Eben!holz – The Hansdieter and Thildy Kretschmer Foundation – Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health – Symphasis Foundation – Ecolodge Chez Arol – Lafaza Trading Company—International Trade Centre (ITC) –The Peter and Kristan Norvig & Family Fund – Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) – Agence Française de Développement (AFD) - Private donors