

## Safeguards Compliance Memorandum

### Project Information

<b>Project Name</b>	Expanding and consolidating Madagascar's marine protected areas network
<b>GEF Focal Area</b>	Biodiversity
<b>Safeguards Categorization</b>	B

### Project Description

The objective of the project “Expanding and consolidating Madagascar's marine protected areas network” is to ensure Madagascar’s marine biodiversity and productivity are effectively managed through a sustainable, resilient national network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The project components are:

Component 1: Establishing an extended, representative and sustainable network of coastal and marine protected areas and Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs). This Component is focused on two primary outcomes. The first is development of a strategy and action plan to achieve Aichi Target 11. This will be achieved through the following: (i) review and update marine Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) proposals based on new IUCN selection criteria, while also integrating the results with the recent priority mapping of marine biodiversity; (ii) define eligibility criteria for LMMAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) with respect to Aichi Target 11 and, based on this criteria, document those sites that may be legitimately included in accounting measures to track progress towards Aichi Target 11; and (iii) based on this priority mapping, the participative development and implementation of a strategy and action plan to attain the Sydney Promise. The second outcome will support implementation of this action plan by providing subgrants to operational partners that will see 2 million ha of MPA/LMMA through to submission for gazettelement.

Component 2: Building a robust enabling environment for MPAs/ LMMAs. Under this Component, the project will (i) update regulatory frameworks for MPAs, particularly with respect to streamlining the creation process and improving adaptation to the special conditions; (ii) support ongoing dialogue and exchanges between government and promoters with the aim of defining a clear regulatory framework for LMMAs and strengthened user rights in both LMMAs and MPAs; and (iii) strengthen MEEF institutional capacity to convey convincing arguments for MPA/LMMA integration into a national Marine Spatial Planning process.

Component 3: Enhancing management effectiveness and contributions to sustainable development through MPAs and LMMAs at site level will primarily support existing MPAs and LMMAs where there is at least a moderate level of management capacity, and an opportunity to improve local livelihoods and test revenue generating mechanisms. The following activities will be applied to the same sites where possible, to ensure consolidation of activities and maximize impact: (i) innovative ways to increase local stakeholder revenues to improve livelihoods and to

strengthen their motivation to manage healthy MPAs and LMMAs; (ii) voluntary cost recovery from increased local revenues as a means to finance routine management activities; and (iii) enhanced management effectiveness through essential infrastructures and equipment, the development and deployment of management tools that are well adapted to local conditions.

Component 4: Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation. The fourth project component on knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation underpins the project to ensure successful execution as well as building lasting capacity for long-term impact and sustainability. It will leverage existing best practices to ensure that knowledge is shared, results are analyzed and available to all interested partners, and lessons learned are used for adaptive management purposes. In addition, Component 4 includes a communications strategy to support all project components.

### **Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis**

The fourth largest island in the world, Madagascar is home to highly diverse and complex marine ecosystems. Estuaries, mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs characterize its 5,600 km long coastline. An estimated 10 million people, including over 250,000 artisanal fishers, rely on these healthy marine and coastal ecosystems for food, revenue, and livelihoods. The proposed project has not determined project locations. These locations will be determined based on (1) KBA mapping which will be done under the project Year 1, (2) this mapping will be integrated into a strategy and action plan which will guide MPA/LMMA expansion at the national level. The project site selection criteria and selection process will be based on the KBA analysis and action plan.

<b>Safeguards Policies</b>	<b>Triggered</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Environment and Social Risk Management	Yes	The project is essentially a conservation initiative, expected to generate significant positive and durable social, economic and environmental benefits. Any adverse environmental and social impacts due to project activities is site specific and minor and can be mitigated. The locations of site level interventions will be determined Year 1 of the project. The Executing Agency, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), prepared an Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a Process Framework (PF) during project preparation to address potential environmental and social adverse impacts.
Natural Habitat	Yes	As stated above, the overall environmental and social impacts of the proposed project are expected to be overwhelmingly positive. The project impacts on Natural Habitats are expected

		to be significantly positive, through efforts to improve participatory conservation and management of key marine protected areas. There may be some potential civil works, which could include minor small-scale impacts on Natural Habitats. Likewise, additional expansion of areas under management and consolidation of already existing marine protected areas could have some impacts on livelihoods. Any such possibilities are addressed adequately under the ESMF/PF.
Indigenous People	No	There are no indigenous people in the project areas.
Involuntary Resettlement	Yes	<p>The project is not expected to involve land acquisition leading to involuntary resettlement of project affected persons (PAPs). However, the project proposes to strengthen the effective management of MPAs and LMMAs, as well as expand the MPA/LMMA network - associated access restrictions may have some negative impacts on livelihoods for individuals in coastal communities, at least in the short-term. The Executing Agency has prepared a Process Framework (PF) to ensure that such activities will be fully consulted on by the promoters once sites have been identified.</p> <p>For issues related to access restrictions, an Action Plan for Resource Access Restrictions (French acronym PARAR) will be developed and put in place before any restrictions come into force. The PARAR will outline the specific measures and provisions to help affected persons or PAPS.</p> <p>The PARAR will be developed during project implementation once the project sites are defined and in collaboration with the affected persons. People affected by the loss of access to marine resources will be provided with alternative livelihoods through Component 3 before access restrictions begin.</p> <p>The most important and common element in all these action plans is that regardless of their scope and level of detail, they should be developed</p>

		with the full participation of PAPs, so that the plan is not merely imposed on PAPs by an outside entity.
Pest Management	No	Aquaculture investments are envisaged, but it is not expected to involve the use of pesticides or other pest management products.

### Summary of Key Safeguards Issues

*Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts*

This is essentially a conservation project. No large scale, significant and/or irreversible negative impact is expected from the project.

*Describe measures taken by the Project Team to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described*

The Executing Agency, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (**MEDD**), prepared a Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a Process Framework (PF) to meet WWF's Environment and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP). These were disclosed online.

The Project Manager has overall responsibility to comply with all WWF's SIPP requirements and a safeguards specialist will be recruited to coordinate execution of the ESMF and PF. MEDD has not previously executed projects for WWF GEF Agency, therefore training and capacity building will be provided to the PMU on WWF's SIPP prior to commencement of the project activities. The safeguards specialist will also provide trainings to the promoters that will be executing activities at the site level. Promoters will be selected during the first years of the project.

*Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people*

The project has had several regional consultations with communities on 29<sup>th</sup> March – 02 June in DIANA region: Ambanja, Ambilobe, Nosy Be, Antsiranana 04<sup>th</sup> to 09<sup>th</sup> June Région Atsimo Andrefana: Toliara, Anakao, Salary Nord and 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June in Baie d'Antongil, Maroantsetra. The ESMF and the PF have both been disclosed locally.

### Monitoring and Compliance

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies? Yes  No  NA

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost? Yes  No  NA

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard

impacts and measures related to safeguard policies? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to WWF-US? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/>

**Disclosure Requirements**

<b>Environment and Social Management Framework and Process Framework</b>	
Date received by WWF-US	November 7, 2019
Date Disclosed on WWF-US website	November 11, 2019
Date Disclosed by MEDD	November 28, 2019

**Approvals**

Safeguards Coordinator: Anushika Karunaratne	DocuSigned by: <i>Anushika Karunaratne</i>	Date: 1/28/2020
Safeguards Compliance Officer: Brent Nordstrom	DocuSigned by: <i>Brent Nordstrom</i>	Date: 1/28/2020

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