

Investing in the Madagascar Blue Economy

THE MARINE AND COASTAL ACCELERATOR FUND

Call to action

Invest in Malagasy expert organizations which protect and manage coastal and marine areas with coastal communities so that these special places continue to provide food, jobs, and safe places to live.

Objective

Together with partners **Madagascar Protected Areas and Biodiversity Fund (FAPBM)** and **Madagascar National Parks (MNP)** will accelerate the readiness of a selection of critical marine and coastal protected areas to receive sustainable finance and serve the Blue Economy of Madagascar.

Through this accelerator fund, local communities will receive support to strengthen co-management of **coastal and marine protected areas** to evidence the multiple benefits of a sustainable blue economy for Madagascar, and success will be expanded to other critical coastal and marine areas.

Investment strategy

FAPBM has created a special fund to intensify efforts already underway by Malagasy experts of the Madagascar Coalition for Protected Areas in **22 marine and coastal protected areas**. This investment will accelerate the ability of local communities and their relevant authorities to receive sustainable finance from the FAPBM and manage their critical coastal and marine areas into perpetuity.

Madagascar has committed to the **30X30 Global Biodiversity Framework** to protect critical seascapes and promote sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. **The 2014 'Sydney Promise'** made by Madagascar at the World Parks Congress to triple the surface of marine protected areas, strengthens the future status of **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** and **Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA)** in national policies on managing natural capital for sustainable development and developing the blue economy.



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These engagements seek to support coastal communities to address the following evolving challenges:

- Impacts of storms (recurrent cyclone season November to April) and sea level rise;
- Impacts on their livelihoods and access to fish as coastal and marine ecosystems of Madagascar are stressed by climate change (e.g., coral bleaching and shifts in fish populations) and unsustainable harvest levels (e.g., from un-managed local and regional fishing activities); and
- Impacts from a collapsing tourism sector related to COVID related travel restrictions and changing profile of Madagascar as positive destination; and
- Impacts of increased conflict resulting from mass movements of people towards the sea caused by prolonged droughts and deteriorating agricultural land.

By investing in resilience of communities and effective sustainable management over coastal natural assets at local, regional, and national levels, the critical ecosystem services upon which many livelihoods and local economies depend will be secured.

Integrating climate resilience planning into coastal and marine management policy as well as coordinating coastal conservation with targeted investments in both soft- and hard infrastructure will significantly enhance conditions for durable economies and sustainable coastal livelihoods.

This way, barriers to effective co-management will be eradicated, paving the way to self-reliant coastal communities, contributing to the Madagascar Blue Economy.

Performance

MNP is a private association mandated by Government decree to manage the **43 national parks and nature reserves in the country**. MNP and their local partners already implement efforts at **8 marine protected areas** (e.g. biosphere reserves and National Marine Parks) and over **200 LMMAs**. Besides, there are **14 other MPAs co-managed** by local communities with support from international NGOs - also members of the Coalition. Expert-driven design of the MPAs is facilitated through consultation with communities. Formalisation of co-management plans and skills of communities and local government are developed to implement their roles.

Kirindy Mité

In **2007**, MNP initiated feasibility studies for the extension of Kirindy Mité terrestrial national park to the coastal zone and marine areas surrounding **7 offshore islands**. The marine park was formally gazetted in 2015 and the terrestrial and marine park was accepted as UNESCO biosphere reserve in 2016. This collaborative initiative is ongoing with WWF and Blue Ventures.

Ambodivahibe

Ambodivahibe MPA benefits many local fishers.

Since **2022**, FAPBM helps communities in their livelihoods needs so that they can support and manage an extension of the protected area.

FAPBM plays an important role, for many of Madagascar's protected areas, in providing a stable and sustainable source of finance. FAPBM provides a trusted legal mechanism for the sustainable financing of operating costs of protected areas in the country.

To support expansion to new areas and achieve Madagascar's global and national commitments, models of effective co-management regimes must be finalised and shared for implementation in other critical coastal and marine areas.

Distribution of the investment

Funds will be used to **1** complement efforts underway at existing LMMAs and MPAs, so that local collaborative management regimes will be durable and adequate to achieve community self-reliance, as well as to **2** identify new marine areas and establish critical enabling conditions required for effective application of durable co-management models.

Specifically, this includes:

1 Support managers of LMMAs and MPAs to:

- Render communities bankable, specifically for coastal and marine related livelihoods – building capacities of communities in money management/investment/financing literacy;
- Implement locally-relevant monitoring and control systems;
- Develop social enterprises targeted to provide solutions for community's primary needs such as electricity and sanitation; and
- Develop adequate partnerships with the private sector to ensure durable access to the market of marine products.

2 Support policy makers to:

- Develop legal frameworks required to strengthen legal basis for collaborative management, investment in blue carbon, facilitate conditions for Blue Economy enterprises such as tourism concessions and sustainable coastal development; and
- Prioritize economic development strategies near LMMAs and MPAs to motivate transition to a Blue Economy with local communities and local enterprises.

Implementing team/organization

MNP will lead work with Malagasy experts (members of the coalition) and local communities to deliver on the blue economy in these critical places.

FAPBM will manage and invest the funds as a trusted Malagasy national sustainable finance institution and measure performance and impacts for communication to investors.



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