

Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin © Amarderson2



Whale Shark © Aaronjbul187

Create a Shark Park and Stop Overfishing in Madagascar

Nosy Be island lies off the coast of northwestern Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. Its diverse marine and coastal habitats include extensive coral reefs in exceptional condition, rocky and sandy shores, and seagrass. The marine habitats surrounding the island hold both high biodiversity and high economic value for local communities in Madagascar.

Overfishing, destructive fishing gear, illegal exploitation, unsustainable tourism practices and pollution threaten the vast web of marine life here and the local communities that rely on it, despite the fact that the marine area between Nosy Be island and the African coast—known as Tandavandriava Nosy Be—has been identified by UNESCO as a priority conservation area and potential marine World Heritage Site.

Tandavandriava Nosy Be supports at least 24 globally threatened species, including sharks, rays, cetaceans and sea turtles like the Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtle and Endangered Green Turtle. The marine area also serves as an important breeding and feeding ground for Endangered Whale Shark, Blue Whale and Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin as well as for Humpback Whale, Omura's Whale and Spinner Dolphin, among others.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Wildlife Conservation Society–Madagascar, seek \$872,000 to support the government of Madagascar in creating the national Tandavandriava Nosy Be Marine Protected Area (MPA) covering 695,400 acres.

SAFEGUARD HABITAT FOR THE WORLD'S LARGEST FISH

The Endangered Whale Shark, the world's largest fish, is aptly named for its size—adults average 39 feet long and 15 tons. Madagascar, especially the waters around Nosy Be, is a global hotspot for them. Around 500 individuals have been documented congregating in this area. They are critical in regulating populations of smaller fishes for the overall health of marine biodiversity. But they are frequently victims of boat collisions, and much of their habitat here is unprotected, putting them at further risk of extinction.

The Tandavandriava Nosy Be MPA will link two existing MPAs to the east and west: Ankarea (334,825 acres) and Ankivonjy (344,465 acres) and will also fortify connectivity throughout the East African region, which is particularly important for wide-ranging species like the Whale Shark. The 73,539 acres of coral here—



695,400
ACRES

\$872,000
PROJECT COST

\$1.25
COST PER ACRE

KEY SPECIES:

Hawksbill Turtle (CR),
Whale Shark (EN),
Blue Whale (EN),
Indian Ocean Humpback
Dolphin (EN), Green Turtle (EN)



considered in pristine condition by scientists—encompass at least 300 species of coral in six reef banks that support at least 309 fish species as well as giant clams and colorful anemones.

STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

This marine area is essential to food security in Madagascar, where more than 90% of the population lives below the poverty line. MPA designation will protect marine biodiversity while improving livelihoods for 4,700 fishers and their families. No-take zones, rotational reserves (temporarily restricted areas) and sustainable use areas as well as gear restrictions and prohibitions on industrial use will be developed with participatory community consultation. The MPA will be co-managed by WCS, government representatives, and civil society; patrols and surveillance will ensure fishing regulations are enforced.

This project is essential to ensuring long-term protection of coral reef ecosystems that are vital to both resident and migrating marine life in the region, and dozens of local communities who rely on healthy fisheries for their livelihoods.



Photo from the project landscape © WCS

