



FACTSHEET

MWIOPO

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WWF MWIOPO's focus issues

OIL, GAS AND MINING

WWF's position on oil, gas and mining

WWF is working to reduce the impacts of oil and gas exploration and development on natural habitats.

In order to avoid predicted escalating impacts of climate change, WWF promotes an energy transition away from fossil fuels - especially coal - to **100% renewable energy sources by 2050.**

In the meantime, we are working to ensure that existing developments - as well as de-commissioning of facilities - do not impact the most sensitive habitats and biodiversity, and to minimize impacts on all other areas.

We are also working to ensure that any new exploration and developments meet the highest environmental standards and follow a precautionary approach.

And, we are working to ensure that oil and gas developments do not threaten the well-being of communities, particularly local communities and indigenous people.

Biodiversity Issues

Oil and gas reserves in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) are significantly impacting the economies and society in East Africa and are set to do the same in Madagascar, the Comoros, the Seychelles and France's Scattered Islands. Although offshore gas overlaps with all of MWIOPO's priority seascapes, it may have little direct environmental impact, but onshore activities may directly have direct impacts on key biodiversity assets in priority landscapes.

Industrial mining will have direct impacts on all terrestrial priority landscapes in Madagascar and, if solutions are not found soon, small-scale and artisanal mining could become one of the biggest threats to biodiversity.

Strategic Need

Extractive industries are among the most important game-changers among WIO states for the foreseeable future. As recently emerging issues, extractive industries will be inherently challenging to governments, citizens and conservation organizations alike. They are likely to have direct and indirect impacts on WWF's priority land- and seascapes in particular, and national biodiversity conservation aspirations

Challenges and opportunities

Extractive industries, especially hydrocarbons, can either precipitate a resource curse and other negative impacts on nation states or create conditions favourable to sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. Key factors include transforming non-renewable resources into sustainable wealth and the adoption of internationally recognized best practices within extractive industries. Coining modern parlance, it means 'getting it right' with policy, legislation and compliance (governments), the adoption of no net loss or net-gain best practices with regard to societal wellbeing and the environment (industry), and accountability (civil society). Failure to get it right cannot be contemplated.

Extractive industries are inevitably key factors in the region's

future and are thus unavoidable. Governments and citizens view them as game-changers with regard to economic growth and improved social wellbeing. Even Madagascar's largely unregulated small-scale and artisanal mining activities provide economic opportunities affect the lives of more than 400,000 people, many of whom are among the least well-off in the country.

While WWF has and continues to be a leader with respect to extractive industries and the environment in the region, WWF-MWIOPO faces critical challenges largely brought about by a political that has led to donor withdrawal. Solutions are critically needed.



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Vision and Goals

The vision is: By 2025, extractive industries in WIO states are well regulated and contribute positively to societal and economic development together with biodiversity conservation.

The following goals have been identified.

- Goal 1: Sound policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks are in place for extractive industries in Madagascar and the Seychelles by 2014 and in the Comoros by 2016;
- Goal 2: By 2016, governments and industry adopt at

least a no net negative impact and preferably positive impact standards and practices for societal wellbeing and biodiversity;

- Goal 3: By 2018, instruments to transform non-renewable extractives resources into funds for sustainable development and strengthened biodiversity conservation are in place;
- Goal 4: By 2018, civil society has an active and effective role in shaping extractive industry development and its consequences.

WWF's role

WWF in East Africa and Madagascar has and will continue to provide social and environmental impact assessments and recommendations regarding extractive industry development. WWF will continue to catalyze policy and regulatory reform, extending its reach to the Comoros and

perhaps the Seychelles. Through strategic alliances, WWF will also promote and support the adoption of industry best practices in favor of sustainable development and mainstreaming environment within extractive industries. It will also continue to strengthen civil society participation.

Status of planning and Key Achievements to date

- Contribution to reform of Madagascar's Petroleum and Protected Areas Codes;
- Improved civil society knowledge, awareness and participation in 2 of Madagascar's administrative regions;
- Establishment of the Extractive Industries Group (GIE) as a platform to promote social and environmental best practices with government and the private sector in Madagascar;
- Strengthened capacity within the Madagascar Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and civil society groups working in this sector, and helping EITI to progress beyond revenue transparency in contract negotiations and revenue uses;
- Collaboration with Government of Madagascar to promote and implement key best practices such as strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) and science-based critical ecosystem no-go areas for extractive industries;
- Contribution to WWF policy regarding oil and gas in East Africa and the WIO, together with network policy on hydrocarbons, mining and offsets;
- Establishing member of WWF's Africa Region Extractive Industries Group;
- Assessment and toolkit for small-scale and artisanal mining in Madagascar as part of the ASM-PACE programme.

Partners and Stakeholders

- Governments of Comoros, Seychelles, Madagascar and France;
- Regional authorities in Madagascar;
- Madagascar's professional press associations;
- Local community associations;
- GIE members (mostly environmental NGOs and donor agencies);
- NORAD and WWF-Norway;
- Universities/ research centers;
- The World Bank (ASM-PACE);
- Madagascar Chambre of Mines;
- Madagascar Upstream Oil Association;
- WWF's CEA GI.



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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature

www.wwf.org

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