



WWF

FACTSHEET

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## WWF MDCO priority landscapes

# Manambolo Tsiribihina Land and Seascape

Wildlife shelter, fish nursery, carbon sink: Madagascar's precious mangrove coast



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### AT A GLANCE

- **Size:** 3,800,000 ha
- **Population:** 500,000
- **Ecosystems:** mangroves corridor, dry and spiny forest, coral reef, wetlands, salt flats
- **Landscape features:** seven protected areas, including Tsingys and Baobab alley, two major rivers, aquatic ecosystems and groundwater reserves
- **Key species:** Madagascar fish eagle, Humblot's heron, fossa, marine and terrestrial turtles, giant jumping rat, lemurs

### The most important mangrove corridor in Madagascar

The Manambolo Tsiribihina Land and Seascape includes the largest, most intact stretches of mangroves in western Madagascar. The mangroves that line this landscape's coast provide important ecological services for the region. They play a particularly important role in carbon sequestration, as they capture carbon more effectively than most other forest types.

The mangroves provide timber and fuel wood for local people and also form a buffer, protecting coastal areas from storm surges and sea level rise caused by climate change. Most critically, they are a breeding ground for crabs, fish and shrimp, which are the main sources of food and economic value for local people. Major threats include overfishing and slash-and-burn agriculture, problems accentuated by poverty and social conflict.

WWF enjoys strong community support in this region for community-based mangroves management. Our projects are helping to improve local livelihoods and introduce innovative approaches to adapt to climate change.

### Vision and Goals

**Vision:** *By 2020, the ecological functions of the landscape are preserved to ensure their integrity and contribution to the economic and social welfare of local communities.*

**Goal 1:** By 2020, the population levels of target species in protected areas and locally managed areas are maintained at their 2015 levels.

**Goal 2:** By 2020, at least 25% of the most vulnerable human populations in the landscape have improved living conditions via the adoption

of alternative economic activities and better access to basic services.

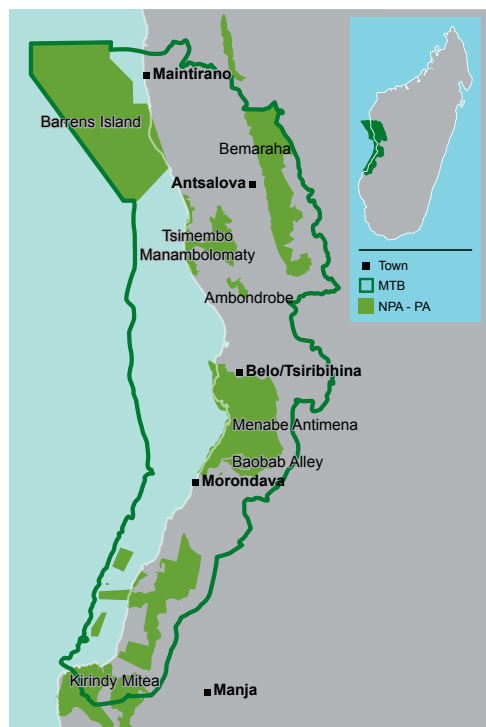
**Goal 3:** By 2020, policy and trade practices improve social and environmental sustainability in the following key economic sectors: industrial and traditional fisheries, fuel wood, mining and oil.

**Goal 4:** By 2020, the capacity of civil society has been improved.

## Key Results

WWF has been in the Menabe and Melaky area since 2010. Here are a few key achievements:

- Delegated management to local communities for seven mangrove and fisheries areas
- Completed a socio-economic profile of the Landscape
- Set up three new Locally Managed Marine Areas through temporary reserves since 2016
- Restored 182.5 hectares of mangroves
- Established collaboration agreements with the following NGOs/CSOs: CNFEREF, Fanoitra and DWCT NGOs, FIVE Menabe, Lalanda and Mahery Consortiums
- Completed surveys on setting up a blue carbon project, land tenure, water bird monitoring, a climate witness study, a crab value chain analysis for Melaky and Menabe, and a crab market assessment
- Developed partnerships promoting ecotourism in Menabe Region.



## Main Activities and Partners

WWF is working on a number of different fronts to achieve our goals in Manambolo Tsiribihina. The protection and restoration of the mangrove corridor from Menabe to Melaky is at the core of our work. This includes establishing a sustainable supply and value chain for fuel wood and supporting the Menabe Region to address precious wood trade. We are also working with local communities to build capacity among civil society and youth, provide education for sustainable development and empowering women in local society. A major goal is to introduce opportunities for alternative livelihoods, including bee keeping, duck farming, handicrafts and ecotourism.

We can't do this alone and rely on the support of our partners including district and regional authorities, local CBOs, partner NGOs and Madagascar National Parks.



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## CURRENT PROJECTS

- Transferring the management of mangrove and fisheries resources to local associations.
- Creating an inter-regional Menabe / Melaky federation of CBOs to improve mangrove management.
- Empowering CSOs, the local media association and youth organizations to advocate for natural resources and climate change.
- Reducing poverty by improving the fisheries value chain and promoting beekeeping and ecotourism.

## People

This is a multi-ethnic region where people from diverse customs coexist. The Melaky and Menabe regions have recently been receiving migrants (According to the PRD Menabe, 2,000 migrants/ year arrive just for agriculture). The majority of the populations (45%) are from the Sakalava Tribe, Another 40% are Antaisaka and the rest come from a mix of different ethnic groups. The Southern Maintirano coast receives a seasonal, but significant, population of Vezo fishers each year.

The role of migrants was crucial in the history of agricultural development in both regions. Fish and seafood make up a major portion of local diets, along with rice, cassava, corn and zebu meat.

The average population density for Menabe is 11 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> and Melaky is 5.94 inhabitants / km<sup>2</sup>.

## Spotlight Story

WWF has sought to promote sustainable harvesting of mud crabs as an alternative source of income.

A study done by WWF found that increasing access to markets for sustainably harvested crab was the most direct way of linking livelihood enhancement with natural resource management.

A project that taught new crab fishing techniques and new methods to store caught crabs greatly reduced the amount of catch lost prior to market. It was a great success, with local fishers reporting increased revenues of 50 to 75% per day.

Previously crab fishing was considered a disreputable activity only practiced by the poor, but these successes are convincing others to participate and increasing the social standing of crab fishers.

Crab fishing in the landscape currently supports 30,000 people.



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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.

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