



Using incentives mechanism to Conserve Dugong and Seagrass

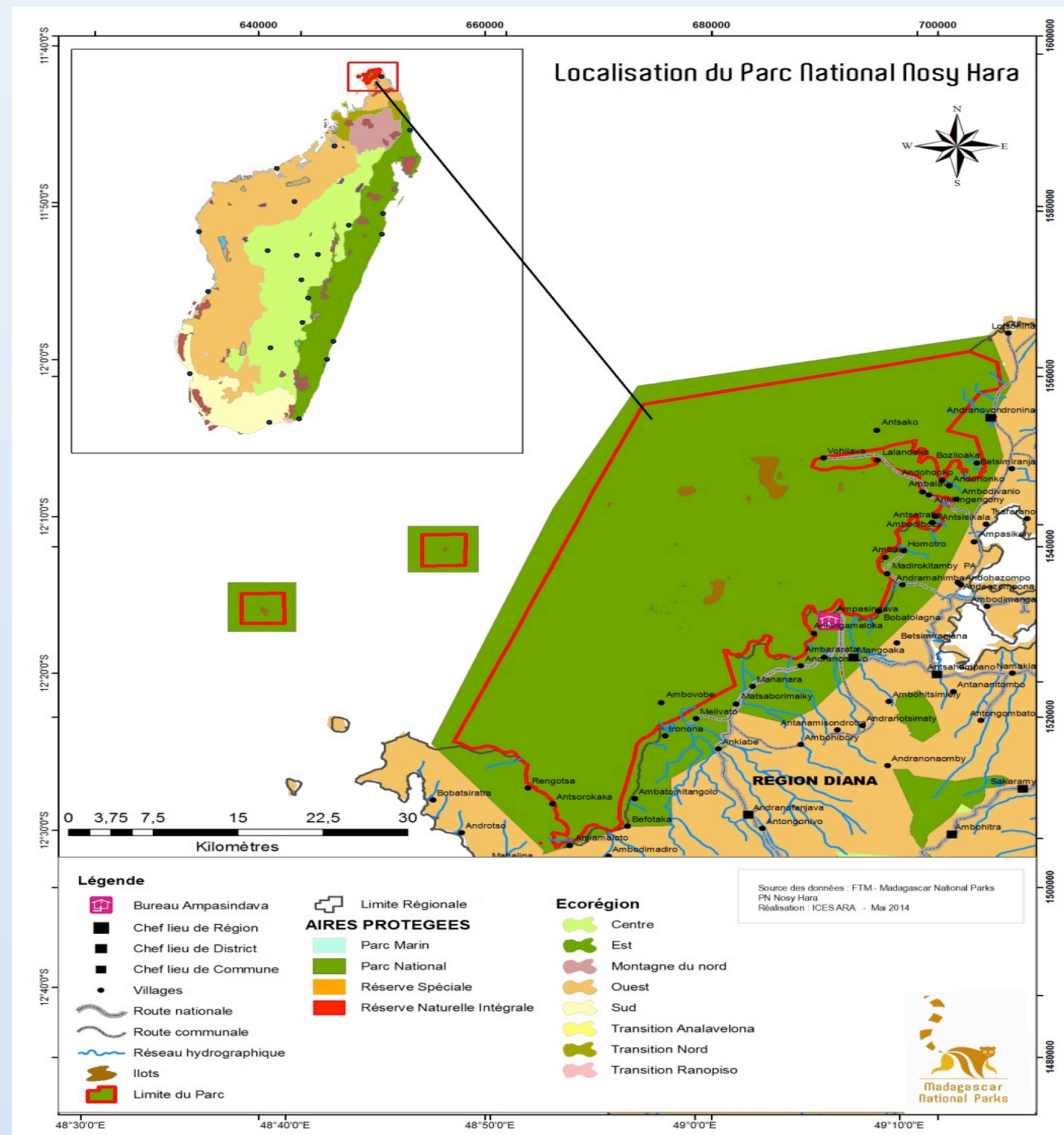


Project Summary

This site is recognized as a site of regional and international importance and had been identified as priority areas with high numbers of dugong observations (WWF-EAME 2004) and confirmed with Rapid Assessment of Dugong by C3 on 2010.

The project consist to establish marine ecosystem stewardship and involve community to conserve dugong and seagrass through incentives.

The project will train MNP rangers and community-based dugong and seagrass surveys (seagrass watch, fisher sighting record programme, stranding recovery programme). Establish Junior Ecoguard group, which will continue to conduct outreach activities raising awareness of dugong habitats and wider marine conservation issues, incentivise fishers to conduct monitoring and surveillance, build the capacity of women's and fishers' associations in running businesses alleviate current fisheries pressure. Furthermore, the project aims to deliver services in terms of improved resources for schools, safe drinking water, maternal health support and enterprise development .



Main Activities

Expand core group of Junior Ecoguards (JEs) in the Nosy Hara Marine Park to a minimum of 100 members; instruct Junior Ecoguards to produce environmental awareness materials; and produce a youth environmental activity toolkit.

Train 40 Conservation Ambassadors (CAs) from across the Nosy Hara Marine Park to support awareness-raising activities for dugongs and seagrass protection.

Train Park rangers in releasing bycaught dugongs, monitoring seagrass and illegal fisheries

Monitor and collect annual data on seagrass health from four key dugong sites.

Establish two social fisheries enterprises.

Furnish four local schools.

Provide regular medical services to remote villages

Develop project steering/community environmental stewardship committee.

Results

- 45 dugongs sightings, 2012 till February 2017, Reporting system active throughout 20 villages coordinated by Conservation Ambassadors, Madagascar National Parks Nosy Hara, C3
- 40 Conservation Ambassadors & 88 Junior Ecoguards selected and trained surrounding the MPA
- Duck farming established within 2 communities , 7 visits out of 20 by general practitioner and midwife to park communities
- 2 schools receive furniture and libraries, C3 outreach materials produced: Junior Ecoguard Manual, posters, info boards, postcards, Dugong t-shirts,



Distribution of Identity Card for active fisherman, Madagascar National Parks Nosy Hara and C3



Annual Seagrass monitoring



Medical services



Community restaurant



Delivery of the duck within community

Next Steps & Lessons Learned

- Communication with Project Coordinator Maya Bankova: MG 3 was Project Champion
- Official lunching of the film and its edit locally and internationally
- Film shared across Madagascar through and also through 20 schools across Diana Region in partnership with Ministry of Education endorsement.
- Sourcing co-funding for sustainability of programme, implementation of local 'dina' or traditional code of conduct for coastal management,
- Repeat of fisher interviews about dugongs to compare with baseline data gathered 7 years ago, mapping of habitat data and sightings data.

About Our Organization

Community Centred Conservation, or 'C3' was established in 2002 by an international group of marine environmental consultants in Palau, we are a young and dynamic non-profit organization with a unique grassroots approach and are active members of the World Conservation Union, IUCN.

We focus on small-scale capacity building, scientific research and environmental education projects that lead to direct benefits for local communities through the sustainable use of their natural environment. By providing opportunities for local people to develop and participate in these projects, we help to ensure the long-term sustainability of our work.

