

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Blue Ventures Conservation
Project Title:	Strengthening Community Management of the Indian Ocean's Largest Locally Managed Marine Area, the Barren Isles
Grant Number:	66073
CEPF Region:	Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
Strategic Direction:	1 Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in priority key biodiversity areas.
Grant Amount:	
Project Dates:	July 01, 2016 - December 31, 2019
Date of Report:	February 27, 2020

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

List each partner and explain how they were involved with the project.

Vezo Miray Nosy Barren (VMNB) Association

The VMNB is the community management association for the Barren Isles Marine Protected Area (BI MPA), representing fishing communities living in the Barren Isles. VMNB is Blue Ventures' main partner in the region. Building the association's capacity for managing the BI MPA was a critical component of this project, and association members were also the main beneficiaries of training sessions. We also supported the training and capacity building needs of the Akio Kary (AK), a team of community surveillance agents established by the VMNB.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

Component 1: Development of the Vezo Miray Nosy Barren (VMNB): During the three years of the project, we supported small-scale fishers through the VMNB association, which implements community-based management measures in the Barren Isles Marine Protected Area (BI MPA). Since being formalised in March 2017, we have supported the VMNB in establishing democratic processes that represent the needs of the communities, providing ongoing training and ensuring that the VMNB can effectively govern the BI MPA now and in the

future. In 2017 we partnered with Mihary Aina, a Malagasy NGO, to develop a leadership and management training programme for VMNB leaders. The programme began in 2018 and included topics on the responsibilities of the VMNB, meeting protocols and methods for grassroots advocacy. In 2019, the VMNB identified capacity gaps and subjects for future training to ensure their effective management of the BI MPA in the future. With our support, the VMNB developed a dina (local, traditional laws used for marine management) in 2016 that included marine management regulations that banned destructive fishing practices, supported the implementation of fisheries closures and permanent no-take zones, and restricted catch size for mud crab (*Scylla serrata*) and sea cucumbers. The 2016 dina was formally ratified in 2018 and established measures to support community-level governance of the BI MPA while also promoting ongoing community engagement. Akio Kary: Enforcing the dina has been a main focus of our more recent work with the VMNB. In 2017, we supported the establishment of a Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) body, the Akio Kary (AK). To improve the AK's ability to conduct surveillance patrols, we developed manuals and logbooks to record dina infractions in the BI MPA. In 2018, we trained representatives from the VMNB's dina committee and 119 AK agents in awareness raising for the dina, engaging with offenders, and handling infractions. In January 2019, we began facilitating quarterly meetings between the dina committee and local authorities to discuss recorded infractions. During the grant, there were 19 infractions recorded (e.g. use of banned fishing gears, such as mosquito nets; see supporting document 1, 2019 Patrol Infractions Database). Community-led temporary fisheries closures: In 2017, we began discussing the potential for temporary fisheries closures and permanent reserves with communities in and around the Barren Isles as a way to promote conservation and local livelihoods. These consultations paralleled our work in building the management capacity of the VMNB and our efforts to obtain permanent protected status for the BI MPA. In 2018, four communities participated in the first trials. Due to how quickly the temporary closures were decided and established by the communities, we were unable to collect adequate baseline data before the closures. Data collectors in Maroantaly found that fishers received an average catch of 4.93kg on opening day and had an average catch of 4.4kg in the month after opening day. In Marify, the average catch on opening day was 3.99kg, with an average catch of 3.8kg in the month after opening day; the largest of which was 4.32kg, an island record. The mangrove channel closures in Ampandikoara and in Soahany aimed to improve catches of mangrove species (e.g. mullet and grouper), but landings on opening day were unremarkable, likely due to the areas not being heavily fished before the closure and more time needed to rebuild the targeted finfish stocks. For future closures, community members agreed to extend the length of the closure period and to choose locations that are easier to patrol. Between February and March 2019, we supported seven communities with reopening their temporary closures, two for octopus, and five for finfish. We held community consultations to discuss results of the closures and afterwards 11 communities agreed to implement closures. Between August and September 2019, seven of the 11 octopus closures were opened; two at the existing sites (Maroantaly and Marify) and five new ones (Mandara, Abohazo, Mangily, Lava and Andrano). Weight of octopus caught per closure was as follows: Maroantaly (155kg), Marify (80kg), Mandara (165kg), Abohazo (215kg), Mangily (500kg), Lava (1,000kg) and Andrano (225kg). Taking a sample from three sites (Lava, Marify and Maroantaly), Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) was 4.16kg per fisher, per trip throughout September 2019, which was an increase

from the 2018 control CPUE of 2.75kg per fisher, per trip. Component 2: See impacts section. Component 3: The Melaky Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) was approved in November 2017 and outlines objectives to preserve marine and coastal ecosystems by supporting the rights LMMA communities to set the guidelines for sustainable marine resource exploitation and management measures. After receiving approval for the FMP, we conducted consultations with communities to identify regulations to be incorporated within the dina and enforced by the VMNB. We are also part of the steering and technical support committees for the FMP, and we coordinate annual meetings to integrate regional stakeholder work plans. Funding for the implementation of the FMP is expected to come from the SWIOFish2 project, which is part of the World Bank’s mission to implement fisheries management plans in the southwestern Indian Ocean area, including Madagascar. Designated as the Executive Agent for the Melaky region for SWIOFish2, we have convened meetings to consolidate action plans and identify synergies among all fisheries-sector actors in the Melaky region. Our proposal and final governance structure was submitted and approved by the SWIOFish2 project and the Ministry of Fisheries, and we are currently undergoing final contract negotiations.

Planned Long-term Impacts – 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
The Barren Isles has permanent protected area status as a category VI MPA, ensuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable local user rights are prioritised in the area in the long term.	Following renewal of temporary protected status, which is expected to happen in 2020, we will have two years to secure permanent protected status for the BI MPA.

Planned Short-term Impacts – 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1. An effective, 24-member strong management body of local fishers (VMNB Association) is in place and is able to convene committee meetings and community feedback sessions quarterly and to monitor and log fishing practices.	During the project, the VMNB led the process of defining local management rules through public consultations - a landmark result for community-led marine management in the Barren Isles. Community leaders and representatives of the management and dina committees are all heavily involved in public consultations to develop the regulations and enforce the sanctions for each infraction, which will promote the long-term sustainability of marine management measures implemented in the area. The Akio Kary (AK) was established within the VMNB as the body responsible for monitoring compliance with the dina (last validated in April 2018), as well as managing the application of sanctions. In January 2019, we began facilitating quarterly meetings with the dina committee and local authorities to discuss recorded infractions.
2. To obtain a definitive protected status for the LMMA with a Monitoring-Surveillance-Control system in place, in collaboration with local authorities.	The AK was validated by the responsible authorities as the body in charge of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance activities in 2017. We are still in the process of securing the permanent protected area status for the BI MPA, but we expect to renew its temporary protected status in 2020.
3. Barren Isles MPA is in place as a pilot for the approved Melaky fisheries management plan, with a fishers registration system in place and 80% of VMNB Association membership has fisher registration cards.	The Melaky Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) was approved in 2017, but its implementation has stalled due to a lack of funds. The implementation of the FMP is expected to begin in 2020. 100% of VMNB members have an association membership card, and all VMNB fishers will receive a fisher registration card from the Ministry of Fisheries in 2020. The distribution of fisher registration cards was delayed after the presidential elections in 2019, which resulted in large personnel changes within the government. At that time, the

	<p>new regional authorities stated that the VMNB was too large to be an association and that members couldn't receive a fisher registration card unless the association registered as a Federation. We have since discussed the issue with the Ministry of Fisheries in Antananarivo, and they have agreed to once again issue the fisher registration cards to the VMNB. 116 government-issued fisher registration cards were distributed before the change in government, but we anticipate that roughly 300 fishers have received the fisher registration card. The remaining VMNB members will receive their fisher registration cards in 2020.</p>
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Describe the successes or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

Short term impact(s)

24-member strong management body

Since its formalisation in 2017, the VMNB, which includes 24 management committee representatives, has become the principal organisation responsible for the process of implementing marine management and conservation measures in the BI MPA - a landmark result for community-led marine management in the Barren Isles. The AK was established within the VMNB, as the body responsible for monitoring compliance with the dina.

Due to the delay in obtaining permanent protected status for the BI MPA, the VMNB is not yet formalised as its management body, but is fully recognised as the responsible authority for the implementation of the dina. Over the course of the project, the VMNB and the broader community acquired full ownership of marine management measures, demonstrating great enthusiasm and interest while slowly becoming more aware of its rights, and more ready to defend them.

Definitive protected status with MCS system in place

We have successfully supported communities with implementing marine management measures in the Barren Isles and will continue to support their efforts in the future. However, we have experienced delays in obtaining permanent protected status for the marine protected area. A zoning and management plan (PAG, Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion) was written in 2016 based on the regulations decided on by local communities, and once formalised it will secure the permanent protected status of the BI MPA. However, the formalisation of the PAG depends on the completion of an Environmental Management and Social Safeguard Plan (PGESS, Plan de Gestion Environnementale et Sauvegarde Sociale), detailing the social and environmental impacts of the BI MPA on local communities.

Recent changes in policy and government resulted in new requirements for achieving permanent protected status, including having to reforest 1% of the BI MPA surface area. This is a challenging requirement to comply with, as the BI MPA only covers a small portion of land, most of it not capable of being reforested. We have addressed this by formalising a new partnership with WWF, the manager of the mangroves in the Menabe region, and we have agreed that they will lead the required reforestation activities. We expect to meet the reforestation requirement in 2020. As of December 2019, we had already submitted all the documentation to renew the temporary protected status, and are now waiting for confirmation from the authorities; once this is confirmed we will work towards preparing the additional documentation needed to achieve permanent protected status.

Barren Isles MPA is in place as pilot for the FMP, with a fishers registration system in place and 80% of members have fisher registration cards

The FMP was approved in 2017, but its implementation stalled due to a lack of funds, which will be addressed by the World Bank's SWIOFish2 project. In October 2018, our proposal for implementing the FMP, including the final governance structure, was submitted to the SWIOFish2 project and to the Ministry of Fisheries for review.

All 600 VMNB members have a fisher membership card, which has allowed them to fish in the MPA. However, following the 2019 elections, there were personnel changes in the regional government, and as a result, the new authorities claimed that the VMNB was too large to be an association and that the Ministry of Fisheries would only issue government fisher registration cards if the VMNB was registered as a Federation. However, after discussing with the Ministry of Fisheries in Antananarivo, the authorities have once again agreed to issue fisher registration cards to the VMNB. 116 fishers received fisher registration cards before the change in government, and since obtaining approval, we estimate that roughly 300 fishers now have fisher registration cards. The VMNB works across a large area that covers most of the district, and as a result of the remoteness and limited resources, some fishers will receive their fisher registration cards later than others. Despite these challenges, we anticipate that all 600 VMNB members will have a fisher registration card in 2020.

Long term impact

Considerable progress was made towards securing the permanent protected area status of the BI MPA. In order to achieve this goal, we are obligated to meet a new requirement of reforesting 1% of the MPA surface area before we can obtain permanent status. We signed an MoU with WWF, who is the mangrove manager of the Menabe region, to help us with the reforestation activities. We expect to achieve this target in 2020. We completed and submitted the Zoning and Management Plan (PAG, Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion) and Environmental Management and Social Safeguard Plan (PGESS, Plan de Gestion Environnementale et Sauvegarde Sociale) for the renewal of the temporary status for the MPA, and we expect to receive approval for this request in 2020. Once temporary status is renewed, we will have two years to meet the requirements to obtain permanent protected area status as a category IV MPA.

The VMNB is established as a fishers association, and our efforts to build their capacity have ensured that they will be able to manage their marine resources by implementing and enforcing the dina through the AK, supporting fisheries management measures (i.e. temporary closures) and meeting both conservation and community needs. By building the capacity of the VMNB, we are confident that it will continue to adequately manage its marine resources once we obtain permanent protected area status and the VMNB becomes the co-manager of the MPA.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

There were no unexpected impacts from the project.

PROJECT COMPONENTS AND PRODUCTS/DELIVERABLES

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Building the organizational capacities of the VMNB Association where it can act effectively as a management body of local fishers.	1.1	24 VMNB committee members complete a cycle of management and leadership training as demonstrated by certificates obtained at the end of the training cycles.	In March 2019, 24 VMNB management committee members attended a two-day workshop in Maintirano to develop their annual work plan. This was followed in April 2019 by the development of an additional one-year management training programme for the management committee. Training sessions started in May 2019 and were held throughout 2019 (see supporting document 3-5, Reports from Financial Management Training, Akio Kary Meeting and VMNB Meeting), along with ongoing support provided by our field team.
1	Building the organizational capacities of the VMNB Association where it can act effectively as a management body of local fishers.	1.2	Quarterly committee meetings and annual general assembly organised by VMNB leaders; with lists of participants and minutes of meetings recorded.	<p>Quarterly dina committee meetings, where infractions and enforcement are discussed with the AK and local authorities, began in January 2019 and are ongoing (see supporting document 1, 2019 Patrol Infractions Database). Similarly, the VMNB management committee also holds quarterly meetings to discuss the general governance needs of the association.</p> <p>The last general assembly was held in March 2018. The VMNB did not hold a general assembly in 2019 because members of the VMNB management committee (who are also members of the general assembly) attended regular meetings and training, as described above. The next general assembly will be held in March 2020.</p> <p>Despite not supporting the general assembly in 2019, regular VMNB meetings are held during community consultations and the opening and closing of temporary closures, giving VMNB representatives the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and lessons learned.</p>
1	Building the organizational capacities of the VMNB Association where it can	1.3	Quarterly feedback sessions to the communities organised by	The VMNB share knowledge gained at formal and informal training during regular meetings they hold with the wider association and community members. As part of the new work plan developed in 2019, we started providing formal and regular peer-training sessions for the VMNB that covered

	act effectively as a management body of local fishers.		VMNB representatives with feedback session minutes recorded, with the support of Blue Ventures.	<p>topics on financial management, how to conduct a meeting and write meeting reports, developing partnerships and policy work.</p> <p>We have begun analysing landings data and fisher perceptions from a temporary closure opening so that we can develop feedback tools to inform communities of the results of a temporary closure. We have completed a draft of the tool, which will provide quantitative information that will allow us to compare results from multiple closure openings.</p>
1	Building the organizational capacities of the VMNB Association where it can act effectively as a management body of local fishers.	1.4	Up-to-date logbook of infractions and resolutions with reports submitted to relevant local authorities.	<p>During the grant, the AK completed 87 patrols and reported 19 infractions. We continue to monitor the work of the AK, and our field team conducts missions to every community to collect patrol records, discuss the AK's experience with patrolling, and provide ongoing training.</p> <p>The AK has voiced concerns about the fact that while on patrol they lose the income that they could have earned if they had been fishing. To overcome this challenge, we encouraged the VMNB to implement membership fees (200 Malagasy Ariary, 0.04 GBP, per month), to collect fees from dina infractions, and put these into a joint bank account. We have provided training on basic finance skills (financial management, logging membership fees, financial transactions, writing meeting minutes and financial reporting), and we will hold community consultations to gather ideas and decide on how to compensate the AK when they are not fishing. VMNB leaders also showed interest in learning how they could earn additional income, and we will support them in developing opportunities in the coming months.</p>
2	Supporting VMNB Association in obtaining definitive protected status for the LMMA.	2.1	Validated Plan d'Amenagement et de Gastion (PAG).	The formalisation of the zoning and management plan (PAG, Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion) is still ongoing due to the delay in the development of an Environmental Management and Social Safeguard Plan (PGEES, Plan de Gestion Environnementale et Sauvegarde Sociale) detailing the social and environmental impacts of the BI MPA on local communities, which should be completed in 2020.
2	Supporting VMNB Association in obtaining definitive protected status for the	2.2	Formal evaluation of MPA by ONE completed.	All documentation was submitted to ONE (Office National pour l'Environnement) in January 2020. We are awaiting feedback.

	LMMA.			
2	Supporting VMNB Association in obtaining definitive protected status for the LMMA.	2.3	Official delimitation by le Service Topographique.	We planned to add the physical delimitation markers of the protected area in December 2019, but poor weather conditions from cyclone Belna delayed this activity. We will put the markers in place in 2020.
2	Supporting VMNB Association in obtaining definitive protected status for the LMMA.	2.4	Decree published on the definitive status of the PA	In December 2019, we submitted the relevant documentation for renewing the protected area temporary status and we are waiting for the official documents to be signed by authorities. Following this step, the government will grant us two years to obtain permanent protected status.
3	Supporting the fisheries ministry to implement the Melaky regional fisheries management plan, including the Barren Isles MPA as a pilot site.	3.1	Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) formally adopted by Ministerial decree.	The FMP was formally adopted in November 2017.
3	Supporting the fisheries ministry to implement the Melaky regional fisheries management plan, including the Barren Isles MPA as a pilot site.	3.2	Document of roles and responsibilities for FMP between Melaky region stakeholders.	Although the FMP was approved in 2017, the authorities have not been able to proceed with its implementation. Funds are expected to be obtained through the World Bank's SWIOFish2 project and Blue Ventures has submitted an application to be the implementing partner for the Melaky region. Our proposal was accepted but we are currently in final contract negotiations.
3	Supporting the fisheries ministry to implement the Melaky regional fisheries management plan, including the Barren	3.3	Fishers registration system in place for Barren Isles MPA, complete with fisher registration cards.	As prescribed by national legislation, a fisher registration system has been in place since 2016. The VMNB maintains a membership register, detailing all fishers and their gears in the BI MPA. The register is regularly updated to reflect fisher movements between villages and along the coast.

	Isles MPA as a pilot site.			
3	Supporting the fisheries ministry to implement the Melaky regional fisheries management plan, including the Barren Isles MPA as a pilot site.	3.4	80% of fisher-members of VMNB Association have fisher registration cards.	We continue to support the VMNB with updating the register of all fishers (600 as of 31 December 2019) and fishing gears in the 13 communities. The register is often shared with the local fisheries authorities so that they can issue fishing registration cards, but the process was delayed following the presidential elections in 2019 and because new regional authorities questioned the size of the VMNB as an association authorised to provide cards. The new Ministry of Fisheries in Antananarivo has since agreed to issue the fisher registration cards to the VMNB after negotiations with Blue Ventures. 116 government-issued fisher registration cards were distributed before the change in government, but we anticipate that roughly 300 fishers have received his/her fisher registration card. The remaining VMNB members will receive their fisher registration cards in 2020.
4	The methods and tools are identified, developed and implemented by Blue Ventures to ensure the proper administrative and financial management of the project, and the monitoring and evaluation of its implementation, including the safeguards policy.	4.1	Completed METT submitted to CEPF at initial and final stage of the project	Final METT submitted at initial and final stages of the project (see supporting documents Blue Ventures METT 2020 and METT Cover Note).
4	The methods and tools are identified, developed and implemented by Blue Ventures to ensure the proper administrative	4.2	Financial reports and progress reports submitted on time	Narrative and financial reports submitted on time to date.

	and financial management of the project, and the monitoring and evaluation of its implementation, including the safeguards policy.			
4	The methods and tools are identified, developed and implemented by Blue Ventures to ensure the proper administrative and financial management of the project, and the monitoring and evaluation of its implementation, including the safeguards policy.	4.3	Documents required as part of the safeguards policy submitted on time	Submitted at project inception.

Describe and submit any tools, products or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

We have begun analysing landings data and fisher perceptions from a temporary closure opening so that we can develop feedback tools to inform communities of the results of a temporary closure. We have completed a draft of the tool, which will provide quantitative information that will allow us to compare results from multiple closure openings.

As part of our capacity building efforts, we developed an outreach tool (see supporting document 2, Outreach Tool) to assist the VMNB management committee with conducting their focus groups, meetings and household visits. Other key items within the outreach tool include: step-by-step actions for meetings, filling out attendance sheets, writing meeting minutes and reporting on activities.

In addition to these tools, our programmes conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation to track project changes and assess progress based on relevant key

indicators. These efforts have enabled us to adequately support the development of the VMNB and AK to manage and protect their marine resources.

LESSONS LEARNED

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

- Project design process (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)
- Project implementation (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)
- Any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

When working with external consultants, we have learned that we must express our expectations of the project very clearly to ensure that both our goals align. For example, we hired an experienced consultant to develop the MCS programme, but the consultant expressed some points to the communities differently from how we would have expressed them (e.g. promises and guarantees that were not within our control). Similarly, we have learned that we must select our consultants carefully to ensure that the quality of the reporting complies with government expectations. For example, in July 2018 we contracted a consultancy firm to complete the PGESS, and agreed on the appropriate methodology with the National Office for the Environment (ONE, Office National pour l'Environnement). However, in March 2019, the consultants produced a draft of the PGESS, which was found to be of unsatisfactory quality by the ministries (many errors in the document, sections copied and pasted from other report and lacking innovation), and we rescinded the contract with the firm and had to prepare another PGESS. In the future, we will discuss with the ministry to see if they recommend certain consultants over others so that we can be confident that data collection methods and reporting comply with a high standard of quality.

When working with partners, we must ensure that both parties clearly understand the agreements and that no points are left open to interpretation. This refers to our discussions with a partner who appeared to share our understanding of an integrated approach between organisations, but after two months of implementation, we learned that the partner understood "integrated" to mean "parallel", which was what we wanted to avoid.

We work in a volatile political environment where policy changes can occur unexpectedly throughout the project life cycle. Government turnover and changes in regulations can hinder our ability to achieve some project objectives in a timely fashion and it is imperative that we build and maintain strong government partnerships so that we can adapt more quickly (even if there is staff turnover). Although we have limited control over these policy changes and their effects, it is important for us to be aware of these threats when designing the project activities and deliverables. For example, when we designed this project, we did not expect there to be major regulatory changes for obtaining permanent protective area status, such as the new mangrove reforestation requirement. We have strengthened our team in the capital, Antananarivo, to form better partnerships with all Ministries concerned and stay informed about potential changes.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

Summarize the successes or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

Throughout the project we have focused on renewing the temporary status of the MPA, which we expect to be approved in 2020. Once we have renewed the temporary status, then we will be able to obtain permanent protected area status for the BI MPA.

We built the leadership and management capacity of the VMNB, which is now an established fishers association. The VMNB has become more autonomous since its establishment in 2017, and we have facilitated ongoing training for the VMNB to ensure that they are able to manage their resources, implement and enforce the dina (with the help of the AK), support temporary fisheries closures, and meet both conservation and community needs. The VMNB has already held two elections, with the third one planned for 2020. We are confident that the association will continue to govern the BI MPA effectively, and once the BI MPA receives permanent protected area status, the VMNB will become a co-manager. The initial successes of the temporary closures have fostered community buy-in, and we will continue to collaborate with communities to implement temporary closures, by assisting with planning their opening and closing days, data collection and analysis. Also, a temporary octopus closure was implemented in Nosy Manandra without our support, and we hope that additional communities will do the same, and become more autonomous in the future. We anticipate that the VMNB management committee will continue to support communities in organising the dates of the closures, raising awareness of the closure boundaries, and enforcing fines for dina infractions.

We have established relationships with the VMNB, regional authorities, civil society and the private sector to support sustainable fisheries management measures, especially as they pertain to increasing fisher incomes and identifying potential alternative livelihoods in the future.

The FMP was finalised during the grant, and we were selected as the executive agent to manage the FMP through the SWIOFish2 project. Once we have received the funding to implement the FMP, we will be better placed to support marine management measures at the regional and community levels. We already have buy-in from local authorities, who have helped to enforce the regulations outlined in the dina, and we will work with them to identify pressures on marine resources from migratory fishing populations and those coming from inland communities. Although we work in a volatile political environment, we have built strong partnerships with regional authorities and we will continue to build on these partnerships so that political changes have a minimal effect on project outcomes. In addition, we will continue to support our staff and improve our organisational structure so that we can meet the conservation needs in the region and support the small-scale fishers whose livelihoods depend upon those resources.

SAFEGUARDS

If not listed as a separate project component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental or pest management safeguards.

We submitted a safeguards document at the beginning of the project, however, certain social and environmental threats have become apparent since its submission.

We have consulted with communities to identify appropriate measures that will not have negative social or environmental impacts on the community. For example, we have consulted communities to designate areas for permanent and temporary reserves, discussed with communities and relevant ministries on management measures that can be included within the dina, we support adult literacy training to help community members better understand marine resource management measures and the members of the AK come from the communities and they are the ones who report the dina infractions.

In 2016, we reported issues with Guanomad as they illegally extracted phosphate on Nosy Andrano, and transported it to Morondava by boat. Following our report, the boat was seized by the local authorities, and Guanomad's permit for the Barren Isles was suspended. Although Guanomad's permits are currently suspended, we are prepared to monitor actions should there be renewed interest in exploiting phosphate on the Barren Isles.

In 2018, an oil company operating in the region, Madagascar Oil, conducted a study to assess the environmental impacts and risks in reinstating the port of Maintirano and putting in place an offshore, floating storage facility. The overall process lacked transparency, the public consultations were not satisfactory and concerns raised during the presentation of results were not well addressed. We verified our concerns with the VMNB leaders and sent a letter of grievances to the National Office of Environment in August 2018. We also partnered with l'Organisation de la Société civile sur les industries extractives (OSCIE) to follow-up with the oil company. We last met with the Chief Executive Officer for Madagascar Oil in 2018 and are continuing to attend meetings with OSCIE. In February 2020, we facilitated the participation of members of the VMNB to attend the meeting of OSCIE in Antananarivo to express their concerns.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization or region as a result of CEPF investment.

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$445,976.00

Type of funding

Provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

- A. Project co-financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)
- B. Grantee and partner leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF-funded project)
- C. Regional/portfolio leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)

A The Darwin Initiative: \$229,959, Cartier Philanthropy: \$183,727, and Global Environment Facility: \$32,290

B No.

C No.

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our website, www.cepf.net, and may be publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (name, organization, mailing address, telephone number, email address) below.

Victoria Jeffers, Blue Ventures, 39-41 North Road, London, N7 9DP, 020 7697 8598, tori@blueventures.org