Ocean Country Partnership Programme

Madagascar

Achievement Report

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Programme:

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) is a 5 year (2021-2026) technical assistance and capacity building programme that provides tailored support to countries to manage the marine environment more sustainably, including by strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy, management tools and creating educational resources for coastal communities. The OCPP delivers work under three thematic areas: biodiversity, marine pollution, and sustainable seafood. OCPP was delivered by three British Government Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs): the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). Other components of OCPP were delivered by the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) and the Friends of Ocean Action (FOA) and those elements are not covered in this report. More information on OCPP can be found at: DevTracker Programme GB-GOV-7-BPFOCPP Documents

Document Purpose:

This Achievement Report presents a summary of the activities undertaken and the achievements obtained as a result of cooperation between countries for this partnership. This document does not cover the multilateral components of the programme and this report only covers achievements by the end of the programme. A range of further achievements are expected as recommendations from the OCPP are adopted by partner countries in the preceding period post-programme closure.

All OCPP Achievement Reports have been authored by the ALBs and therefore key achievements and impacts of collaboration reflects individuals own perspectives. Independent evaluation by the OCPP MEL provider verifies outputs and outcomes against the programme logframe, the findings of which can be viewed in the programme's annual reviews and closure report on Dev Tracker.

Funding Acknowledgement:

Funding for OCPP was provided through the overarching Blue Planet Fund (BPF) by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The authors would like to thank and acknowledge Defra on behalf of the UK Government for the funding: project number GB-GOV-7-BPFOCPP has funded this work.

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Executive Summary

The OCPP–Madagascar partnership has delivered targeted, high-impact support that has strengthened national marine governance, enhanced community resilience, and improved protection of Madagascar's unique coastal ecosystems. Working closely with government ministries, community networks, NGOs, and regional bodies, the programme has built lasting capacity across biodiversity conservation, sustainable seafood, and marine pollution preparedness.

Key achievements include significantly improved emergency response capability, with accredited training, a national Vulnerability Atlas, and alignment with the new Western Indian Ocean Regional Contingency Plan. Fisheries monitoring and enforcement have been strengthened, supported by vessel traffic analysis, enhanced inspector skills, and upgraded observer training. Madagascar National Parks formally adopted a modernised National Seagrass Monitoring Protocol, improving evidence for MPA management and national reporting. Updated species protection legislation (Decree 2006-400) now provides a comprehensive legal framework for safeguarding vulnerable marine species.

Regionally, OCPP helped establish the Western Indian Ocean LMMA Alliance, securing a long-term platform for community-led conservation and inclusive investment. At the community level, ocean literacy efforts trained over 90 teachers and launched 41 Junior Ecoguard clubs, empowering more than 1,000 young people as environmental stewards in underserved southern regions.

Across all workstreams, OCPP embedded gender equality and safeguarding, ensuring inclusive participation and safer learning environments. The partnership leaves Madagascar with stronger institutions, empowered communities, and a more coordinated regional approach; creating a durable foundation for sustainable, climate-resilient ocean management long into the future.

Acronyms

BV	Blue Ventures
C3	Community Centred Conservation
Cefas	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
C&E	Compliance & Enforcement
CSP	Centre de Surveillance des Peches
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
GIS	Geographic Information System
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IHSM	University of Toliara Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines
IUU	Illegal Unreported Unregulated (fisheries)
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPLC	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IMS	Incident Management Systems
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LaSMMI	Large-scale Seagrass Mapping and Management Initiative
LMMA	Locally Managed Marine Areas
MEDD	Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable)
MPEB	Ministry for Fisheries and the Blue Econom
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MIHARI	MItantana HArena an-dRanomasina avy eny Ifotony Translates to "Marine resources management at the local level."
MNP	Madagascar National Parks
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSP	Marine spatial planning
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution.
NCP	National Contingency Plan
NGO	Non-Government organisation
OLEP	the Organe de Lutte contre l'Evènement de Pollution marine
OPRC	International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation
OCPP	Ocean Country Partnership Programme
OPM	Oxford Policy Management
PAME	Protected Area Management Effectiveness
PEA	Political Economic Assessment
RCP	Regional Contingency Plan
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment
SDDirect	Social Development Direct
VAC	violence against children
WIO	Western Indian Ocean
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

WIOMPAN	Western Indian Ocean MPA Management Network
WIOMSA	Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association
WWF	World Wide Fund For Nature

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Context

The fourth largest island in the world, Madagascar has more than 3,000 miles of coastline, over 250 islands and more than a million square miles of economic exclusion zone (EEZ). Madagascar is a global biodiversity hotspot and has some of the largest coral reef systems and most extensive mangrove areas in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) with its natural environment being among the richest and most diverse of the Indian Ocean region including seagrasses, estuaries, marshes, and shorelines. The

country's marine ecosystems and marine resources are critical for the livelihoods of coastal communities and for the nation's food security. Madagascan culture is deeply linked to its marine heritage, with fishing practices, conservation efforts and community management playing a critical role in preserving the island's unique marine environments.

Coastal and Marine Pressures

Environmental degradation and the impacts of climate change are particularly detrimental given that Madagascar has such high dependency on natural resources and is particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events (ranked highest risk from cyclones in Africa). Over the past 35 years, Madagascar has been victim to more than 50 natural disasters varying from droughts, floods and cyclones, all of which exacerbate conditions for those living in poverty. Climate risks for coastal fisheries include ocean acidification, sea level rise, changes in cyclone events, increasing temperatures, wind intensification, increased occurrence of extreme weather events and also facilitate the spread of exotic and invasive species.

Approximately 1.31 million people in Madagascar face high levels of food insecurity and 40% of children face chronic malnutrition. This is often because of natural disasters such as droughts, hurricanes and floods, which negatively impact agriculture growth, increase food prices and loss of jobs, as 80% of the population's primary source of income is agriculture. Bush fires and forest fires occur frequently in the highlands which causes siltation and sedimentation of coastal ecosystems including mangroves and coral reefs.

Overexploitation and destructive resources extraction from the marine environment is undermining Madagascar's natural resources base which is critical to the nation's food security. Marine fisheries are an important sector within the national economy and fish stocks are key for employment creation, food security and poverty alleviation. Madagascar's coastal communities, including marginalised groups such as women, girls and indigenous groups, are heavily dependent on small-scale fisheries such as fish, crab, lobster, shrimp and tuna accounting for up to 67% of the country's fishery resources production. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing represents a threat to the sustainable management of fisheries in Madagascar, resulting in an estimated annual loss of 14 million US dollars per year.

Both terrestrial and marine pollution such as terrestrial chemical pollution, sewage pollution, marine based plastic litter, and the degradation of fresh watersheds are growing threats in Madagascar. Environmental degradation problems, caused by deforestation and slash-and-burn agriculture, have created severe erosion and water quality problems, impacting coastal habitats such as seagrass and coral reefs through increased turbidity and smothering (Harifelo and Harifidy). Solid waste pollution enters the marine environment due to a lack of effective management on land, posing a threat to marine life. Further pollutants, such as pesticides from agriculture and mercury and heavy metals from the mining industry, cause human health issues and damage ecosystems. In addition to the chronic pollution pressures, Madagascar faces

significant vulnerability to marine pollution incidents, particularly oil and chemical spills. This vulnerability is driven in part by the high-density shipping traffic that passes through narrow and heavily used sea routes, including the Mozambique Channel and routes extending into the Indian Ocean, resulting in elevated risks from large volumes of oil tankers and commercial vessels. In addition, the risk of marine pollution is further heightened by increasing oil exploration and transportation activities in Madagascar's offshore waters.

Habitat degradation along coastlines and in the marine environments is impacting directly on the health and productivity of marine resources and ecosystem services. Formally designated **Marine Protected Areas currently cover 1.26% of the country's waters**, with the majority located nearshore or on the continental shelf. An additional 17% of inshore seabed is covered by Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), however there is little offshore representation which limits the consideration of ecological connectivity and can hinder resilience and ecological coherence. LMMAs, first established in 2006, play a critical role in Madagascar's marine protection, with Government authorities and conservation organisations utilising local laws and customs to create over 280 LMMAs. LMMAs are coordinated by the MIHARI Network and aim to rebuild coastal communities' fisheries and protect coasts from climatic impacts, now covering nearly 20% of Madagascar's coastline. Madagascar's LMMA network is leading the way for coastal community conservation in the Western Indian Ocean and aims to serve as the basis for a wider regional LMMA network.

Marine Protected Areas currently cover 1.26% of the country's waters

Poverty, Development and Climate Change

In 2024, approximately 80% of the population of Madagascar (~30 million) lived beneath the international poverty line (World Bank, 2025). Whilst the majority of Madagascar's population depend on agriculture (~85%), around 1.5 million depend on fishing and aquaculture, mainly in coastal areas. These communities are among the most vulnerable and marginalised, the majority without other assets such as land that would allow them to diversify their income and support community wellbeing. In 2003 the Madagascar Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper identified that food expenses take up to 70% of the income of the majority of Malagasies, which leaves meagre resource for other essential needs including health, education, and housing. 59.9% of the population have no access to drinking water and sanitation, causing additional health hazards (DEEP, 2025).

Madagascar has amongst the worst learning outcomes in the world. Only 4% of pupils in the first four years achieve minimal competences. At late primary age, 95% are not proficient in reading. Nearly half of the population (48%) is illiterate and of these 61% come from rural areas and 50.6% are women.

Structural barriers to poverty alleviation include a lack of basic services and economic infrastructure, such as roads, transportation, energy, telecommunications, and other issues have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and multiple cyclones in recent years. Climate change related increases in frequency and severity of these tropical storm events poses a continual barrier to development. In 2022 alone, four

tropical storms are estimated to have caused damage equivalent to almost 5% of Madagascar's GDP (DEEP, 2025).

OCPP Contribution to Identified Challenges

Madagascar's extreme climate vulnerability, high dependence on small-scale fisheries, and rapidly degrading coastal and marine ecosystems shaped the design of the OCPP's support. These challenges, combined with high poverty levels and limited alternative livelihoods, reinforce the need for integrated support that couples ecosystem protection with strengthened governance and community-level capability.

OCPP centred on several core needs:

1. **Strengthen ecosystem resilience:** To protect critical habitats (seagrass, mangroves, coral reefs), to reduce the impacts of climate hazards, and support fisheries recovery.

2. **Improve sustainable livelihoods and food security:** By enabling better fisheries management, building capacity to tackle IUU fishing, and supporting local economies.

3. **Build national capability for monitoring, enforcement and decision-making:** Through enhanced MCS systems, inspector and analyst training, updated species legislation, strengthened MPA/LMMAs management, and improved data protocols.

4. **Support expansion and effective management of MPAs and LMMAs:** To help Madagascar progress toward its 30x30 commitments, build climate resilience and formalise community-based conservation models.

5. **Enhance pollution preparedness and response:** Improve national emergency response capacity, vessel traffic analysis, and multi-agency coordination to reduce risks from shipping and coastal industrial activities.

6. **Address social vulnerability and strengthen inclusive governance:** ensure women, youth and marginalised coastal groups are engaged in resource management, benefit from strengthened capacity, and are supported through ocean literacy and community-centred approaches.

Collectively, these implications justify OCPP's integrated focus on sustainable seafood, marine biodiversity, and pollution/emergency response in Madagascar, underpinned by cross-cutting work on capacity building, evidence generation, and GEDSI integration.

Stakeholders

The management of Madagascar's marine and coastal environment is shaped by a wide community of government institutions, civil society organisations, research partners and community networks. As in many countries where responsibilities span both land and sea, coordination can be challenging. Different ministries oversee fisheries, environment, forestry, maritime transport, natural resources and national defence, and these overlapping mandates can sometimes pull in competing directions.

Recognising this complexity, Madagascar established an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) framework under **Decree No. 2010-137**, designed to improve collaboration across government and guide a more coherent approach to coastal governance.

Within this system, two ministries hold central responsibility for the marine space. The **Ministry for Fisheries and the Blue Economy (MPEB)** leads national efforts to manage fisheries, protect coastal livelihoods, and promote sustainable use of marine resources. Its specialist agency, the **Centre de Surveillance des Pêches (CSP)**, plays a frontline role in fisheries monitoring, control and enforcement across the Malagasy Exclusive Economic Zone. Alongside it, the **Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)** oversees the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems. MEDD's operational arm, **OLEP**, is the national authority responsible for coordinating responses to marine pollution events, including oil spills and other major incidents.

Civil society organisations play a vital role in complementing government action. **Madagascar National Parks (MNP)** manages the country's formally designated Marine Protected Areas, working in close partnership with coastal communities and conservation organisations. Longstanding international NGOs such as **Blue Ventures**, **WWF**, and the **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** support conservation, sustainable fisheries, community led monitoring and biodiversity protection along the coast. Equally important is the **MIHARI Network**, a nationally recognised platform representing hundreds of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs). MIHARI gives coastal communities a strong collective voice and has been instrumental in advancing community based marine stewardship and supporting national discussions on sustainable fisheries and coastal governance.

A number of local organisations provide technical expertise that strengthens national capability. **RESOLVE**, a Malagasy consultancy, has supported the government in reviewing and updating marine species legislation. **Community Centred Conservation (C3)** has worked closely with teachers, youth and local authorities to expand ocean literacy and awareness of sustainable practices. Madagascar's academic institutions, in particular the **Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines (IHSM)** at the University of Toliara, contribute scientific knowledge and provide training that underpins national monitoring efforts, MPA management and species protection.

Madagascar is also deeply connected to regional marine governance. Organisations such as **IUCN**, **Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)**, the **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** and the **Nairobi Convention** help integrate Malagasy practitioners into regional dialogues, capacity building programmes and scientific networks. Through these partnerships, Madagascar has taken an active role in shaping the new **WIO LMMA Alliance**, strengthening regional cooperation around community led conservation and knowledge exchange.

As one of the world's most biodiversity rich and climate vulnerable countries, Madagascar attracts significant attention from international donors, NGOs and development partners. While this support brings valuable resources and expertise, it

also underscores the importance of coordination. Funding across regions and themes can be uneven, and without careful alignment there is a risk of duplication or activities that diverge from national priorities. Effective donor coordination—anchored in government leadership and community needs—remains essential to ensure that investment contributes to sustainable, long-term outcomes for Madagascar's people and marine environment.

Impact

The overarching intended impact for OCPP in Madagascar is: “Madagascar can better address the challenges to their marine environments and biodiversity, enhance marine dependent livelihoods, and the wellbeing of those that depend on them, sustainably, equitably and inclusively.” Progressing towards this impact, the partnership achieved the following outcomes:

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Built capacity to respond to national and regional pollution threats

OCPP has significantly strengthened Madagascar's readiness for marine pollution emergencies, giving national agencies the skills, tools, and regional coordination mechanisms needed to respond quickly and effectively. Through IMO-accredited Levels 1 & 2 responder training and Incident Management Systems (IMS) training, government teams now have practical, operational capability and a clear understanding of how to coordinate an effective spill response. This has been reinforced by new planning and decision-support tools including a sub-regional shipping traffic risk assessment, a national Vulnerability Atlas mapping ecosystem sensitivity and high-risk areas, and updated nautical charts to guide early detection, targeted patrols, and rapid mitigation.

Madagascar's regional leadership and alignment have also been strengthened. With OCPP support, Madagascar played an active role in the Western Indian Ocean Regional Symposium on Marine Pollution Emergency Response (January 2026), where the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) was finalised ahead of its presentation for adoption at the Nairobi Convention COP 12. This process helped identify national and regional gaps, inform the RCP implementation plan, and shape future collaboration opportunities. Additional training on Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) further clarified national roles and improved coordination with neighbouring states.

As a result, Madagascar now has stronger national capability, clearer regional responsibilities, and better-aligned contingency planning, enabling the country to respond to marine pollution incidents faster, more collaboratively, and with reduced environmental and socioeconomic impact.

Advanced National Monitoring Protocols and Strengthened Fisheries Enforcement

OCPP has strengthened Madagascar's ability to monitor and protect its marine environment by improving both ecological monitoring and fisheries enforcement. Working with Madagascar National Parks, the programme developed a National Seagrass Monitoring Protocol that gives rangers a practical, standardised approach to assess ecosystem health across the MPA network. Developed with the Pew Charitable Trust coastal wetlands team, the protocol ensures data collected feed directly into national MPA management and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) climate reporting. Madagascar National Park (MNP) began using the protocol in the 2025 field season, generating data now informing conservation and national reporting processes.

To reinforce enforcement capability, OCPP delivered a Vessel Traffic Analysis identifying key risks and guiding patrol planning, alongside hands on training for fisheries inspectors, analysts and observers. This included inspection techniques, intelligence gathering, remote monitoring, and threat analysis, as well as additional training for Indian Ocean Tuna Commission observers to strengthen RFMO compliance. Collectively, these actions have enhanced Madagascar's capacity to detect, monitor and respond to IUU activity and safeguard its marine resources.

Enhanced National Legislation and Demonstrated Uptake of Conservation Best Practice

OCPP has strengthened national policy and practice in Madagascar through targeted technical support and clear uptake of new approaches by key institutions. Working with local consultancy RESOLVE, the programme supported government efforts to update and expand species protection legislation. Expert reviews identified priority threatened marine species and RESOLVE drafted amendments to Decree 2006-400. With ministerial endorsement now secured and implementation guidance developed, Madagascar has a significantly enhanced legal framework for marine species protection, supported by case studies illustrating the expected conservation benefits.

At the regional level, OCPP helped establish the Western Indian Ocean LMMA Alliance in partnership with IUCN, building on momentum from the 2024 LMMA Forum. Launched in 2026, the Alliance provides a shared toolkit, a gender-responsive investment strategy and a regional platform for collaboration, strengthening LMMA governance and accelerating progress toward 30x30. Its creation reinforces Madagascar's leadership in community-led marine management across the region.

OCPP's capacity-building efforts have also driven tangible improvements in practice. Madagascar National Parks has formally adopted Marine Conservation Best Practice guidance and introduced new monitoring methods delivered through OCPP training, improving ecosystem reporting and MPA management. The Centre de Surveillance des Pêches has integrated enhanced observer and inspection techniques into routine operations, strengthening national compliance with regional fisheries obligations. Support to macroalgal aquaculture has promoted climate-resilient production methods, while ocean literacy training delivered to teachers in over 40 schools has deepened community engagement in marine conservation. Together, these actions demonstrate clear uptake of sustainable practices and policy recommendations across multiple national actors.

Case Study

Modernising Marine Species Protection: Updating Decree 2006400

Before OCPP support, Madagascar's Decree 2006400 protected only a narrow group of marine species—leaving sharks, rays, marine mammals, dugong, coelacanth, and many invertebrates without legal protection. Government partners requested technical assistance to modernise the decree and align it with the current global threat status.

OCPP commissioned Malagasy consultancy RESOLVE to lead a two phase reform with MEDD and MPEB. The first phase reviewed international obligations (IUCN Red List, CITES, CMS, African and Nairobi Conventions, IOTC) and, through a technical workshop, developed clear criteria and priority species lists. The second phase streamlined drafting across ministries, supported by IHSM's case studies demonstrating how stronger listings translate into practical management benefits.

Key achievements:

- A consensus-based, multi-taxa protection list and fully revised legal text, endorsed at ministerial level in early 2026.
- Four applied case studies showing how updated protection informs permitting, monitoring and enforcement.
- A practical implementation roadmap outlining notification, guidance, training and

As a result, Madagascar now has a modern, evidence-based marine species protection framework that closes major gaps for threatened and commercially exploited species. The process also created a repeatable national template—from criteria setting to drafting and validation—reducing future reliance on external support.

Once operationalised with inspector and ranger training, and integrated into fisheries MCS (observers, patrols, port inspections), the updated decree will directly strengthen compliance and improve real-world protection for Madagascar's most vulnerable marine species.

Case Study

Establishing the WIO LMMA Alliance

Building on momentum from the 2024 WIO LMMA Forum, OCPP and IUCN spearheaded the creation of the Western Indian Ocean LMMA Alliance which is the first regional platform uniting community-led marine managers across all WIO countries. A draft governance structure and Terms of Reference were presented at the WIOMSA 13th Scientific Symposium in Mombasa, Kenya; where practitioners, community leaders, NGOs and researchers helped shape the Alliance's vision and priorities.

Further refinement came through consultations at the IUCN World Conservation Congress and COP30, alongside targeted community engagement led by local consultants across the region. By early 2026, a regional Steering Committee—comprised of community representatives from every WIO country—held its inaugural meeting and agreed a 12-month workplan built around four pillars:

- Community rights and recognition
- Inclusive governance and stewardship
- Resilient livelihoods and growth
- Collective power and learning

To support long-term functionality, OCPP and IUCN developed a suite of practical resources, including a regional LMMA Toolkit, Investment Strategy, Trust Fund design, and a GEDSI analysis to ensure inclusive access to finance.

Launched in 2026, the Alliance now provides a sustainable, region-wide platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building and community-driven marine conservation—ensuring LMMAs across the WIO are better supported, more connected and equipped to drive lasting ocean stewardship beyond the life of OCPP.

Workstreams

The OCPP started engaging with Madagascar in September of 2023, technical assistance was delivered after in-depth scoping with Madagascar stakeholders in 2024 and concluded at the close of OCPP in early 2026. Figure 1 provides an overview of the timeline for the Mozambique partnership.

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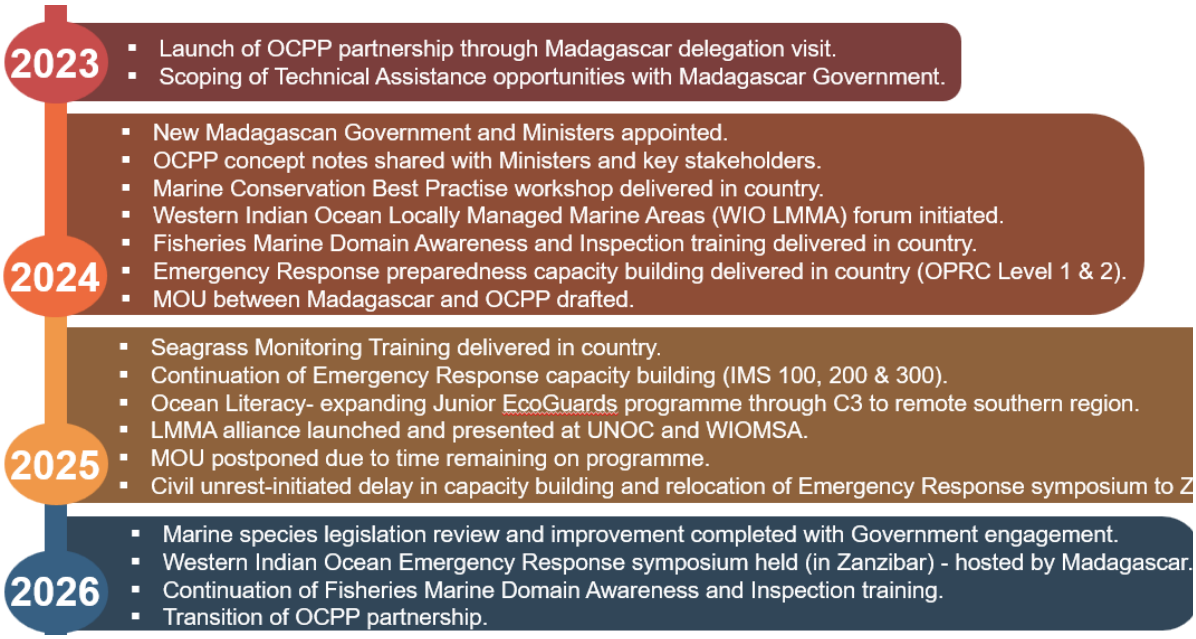

Figure 1: Timeline of Delivery throughout the Madagascar OCPP partnership

Fisheries Compliance and Enforcement

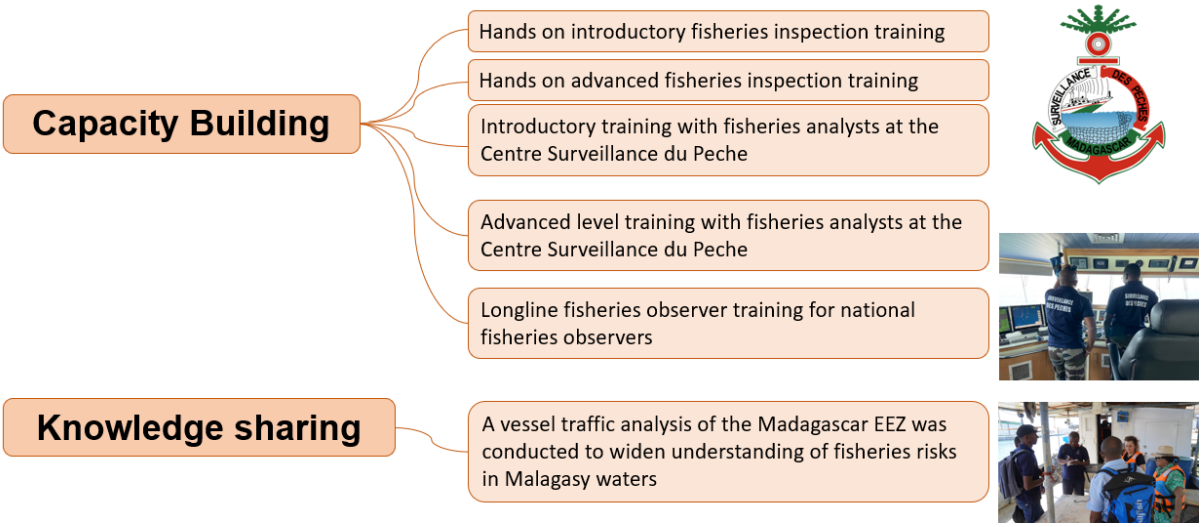

Figure 2: Summary of Delivery through the Fisheries Compliance and Enforcement workstream

One of the OCPP delivery partners, the UK Marine Management Organisation (MMO) worked closely with the Centre de Surveillance des Peches (CSP) to provide several training programmes to share UK best practice in fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) along with practical inspection of fishing vessels in port and at sea. This training focused on inspection processes and digital analysis of fishing activity. Across three deployments, training was provided simultaneously to two cohorts of CSP staff at both an introductory and advanced level. CSP staff travelled from across Madagascar to participate in these training programmes, enabling the sharing of best practice and knowledge between CSP inspectors, as well as from the UK MMO team. By the end of the programme, all CSP inspectors had attended at least one training workshop relevant to their area of work.

Focusing on enhancing fisheries observer skills, a second training programme provided expert training to Madagascar fisheries observers, enabling them to monitor national, longline and trawl fisheries, resulting in increased compliance with Indian Ocean Commission requirements and expectations. Separately, aligned with the training provided to CSP, a vessel traffic analysis was conducted over Malagasy waters identifying risks to the environment and fisheries and providing insights to stakeholders within Madagascar to enable them to identify areas at greatest risk from the impact of collisions, groundings and pollution incidents.

Marine Protected Areas

Figure 3: Summary of Delivery through the Marine Protected Area workstream

OCPP's marine biodiversity workstream focused on strengthening the scientific, technical and community foundations needed for effective MPA management and community led conservation in Madagascar. Early scoping identified a clear national priority to build capacity within Madagascar National Parks (MNP) and relevant MEDD departments. In response, OCPP delivered a multiday Marine Conservation Best Practice workshop for over 50 participants, introducing core elements of

the MPA management cycle and the role of community engagement in long term ecosystem protection.

A major gap identified through this engagement was the need for stronger ecological monitoring across the MPA network. OCPP therefore worked with MNP and regional partners to update Madagascar's National Seagrass Monitoring Protocol, aligning it with international standards and providing targeted training for rangers in species identification, restoration, data management and monitoring techniques. Following field testing and refinement, the new protocol was formally adopted and implemented by MNP teams in late 2025. Complementary online training throughout 2025 expanded MNP's technical capability across seabirds, marine mammals, coral restoration, mangroves and data management—providing a lasting resource library for MPA staff.

"The data collected through this protocol will contribute to the calculation of ecological indicators related to the viability and health of the MPAs. It will also enable the assessment of habitat dynamics and trends in sea turtle populations, thereby strengthening evidence-based management"

MNP Manager

Beyond national capacity, OCPP strengthened regional collaboration and community led conservation through support to the Western Indian Ocean LMMA movement. Building on the 2024 LMMA Forum hosted in Madagascar, OCPP collaborated with IUCN and WIOMSA to establish the WIO LMMA Alliance, develop a regional LMMA Toolkit and competency framework, and design a gender responsive Investment Strategy and Trust Fund. Launched in 2026, the Alliance provides long term support for community managed marine areas across the region and reinforces Madagascar's leadership in LMMA governance.

To advance species protection, OCPP partnered with RESOLVE and national ministries to update Decree 2006400, which previously protected only a handful of marine species. Through expert review, stakeholder workshops and case studies, a new multi taxa protection list and revised legal text were agreed and endorsed by both ministries, laying the groundwork for significantly stronger national conservation measures.

Together, these interventions have left Madagascar with enhanced MPA management capacity, stronger ecological monitoring systems, greater regional leadership, and modernised species protection legislation, providing a robust platform for long term marine biodiversity conservation.

Emergency Response

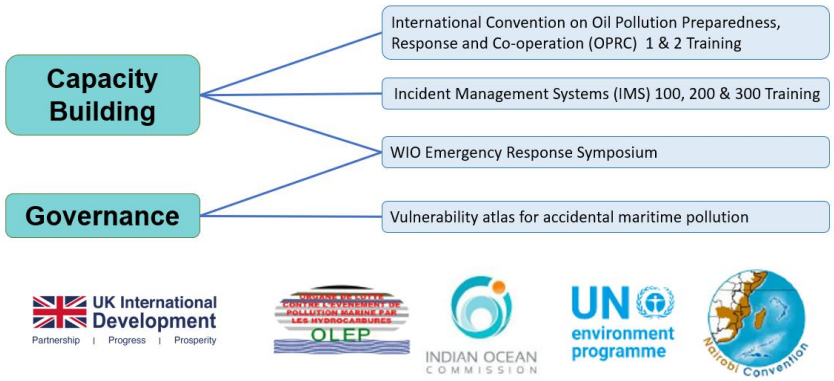

Figure 4: Summary of Delivery through the Emergency Response workstream

OCPP provided training in IMO Levels 1 & 2 and Incident Management Systems (IMS) courses, developing the skills of 25 participants. These internationally recognised courses provide accredited expertise for Madagascan stakeholders, strengthening their ability to respond to national pollution emergencies. To aid planning and mitigation, OCPP collaborated with local experts to produce a comprehensive Vulnerability Atlas, with accessible data layers for ecosystem sensitivity and anthropogenic pressures, including nautical charts to support patrol planning and pollution response, aiming to reduce risk in shipping hotspots.

OCPP, in collaboration with the Nairobi Convention and Indian Ocean Commission, also supported Madagascar to participate in the WIO Regional Symposium on Marine Pollution Emergency Response in January 2026, where the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) was finalised in preparation for the Nairobi Convention COP 12 in 2026, where this plan will be presented to Contracting Parties for potential adoption. The Symposium also provided the opportunity for countries to identify both national and regional gaps and priorities, which have been integrated into the RCP implementation plan and for scoping onward opportunities to build on the momentum from the symposium.

As an output to support the dialogue, a subregional Vessel Traffic Analysis was produced for Madagascar and Mozambique, providing an evidence-based overview of ship movements and associated marine pollution risks in the region. In addition, OCPP supported essential capacity building for Madagascar, with accredited training delivered on Hazardous and Noxious Substances, as well as technical training on dispersants, claims and compensations, and oiled wildlife response.

Another key outcome of the event was improved coordination in the WIO region, which is crucial to align marine pollution response, identify sustainable funding sources, and undertake a regional risk assessment (all identified as key next steps). The Symposium also provided the opportunity for read across of marine pollution emergency response into other critical themes, including GEDSI and disaster resilience, recognising the need for integrated approaches to address multi-hazard preparedness and safeguard coastal livelihoods.

As part of the capacity building programme, OCPP has also supported remote training outside of the Symposium, including training on Oiled Wildlife Response (delivered by The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) and HNS Convention/Claims and Compensation (delivered by The International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds). Ensuring Madagascar's participation in the launch of the RCP, and providing complementary capacity building, OCPP has enhanced Madagascar's preparedness to respond to emergencies, clarifying their role in regional events and ensuring alignment of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) to the RCP. On the back of the event, Madagascar have volunteered to host the next national exercise in 2027.

"The conference series has provided a strong technical foundation for the development of upcoming bird and mammal monitoring protocols to be implemented this year. Furthermore, the data analysis sessions will be applied across all MNP databases to enhance data management and interpretation processes. The lecture series has strengthened the reliability of ecological data and improved methodologies for calculating conservation indicators. Consequently, management decisions within MPAs will be more scientifically robust, structured, and evidence-based, ultimately contributing to more effective conservation outcomes in Madagascar"

MNP Manager

Sustainable Aquaculture

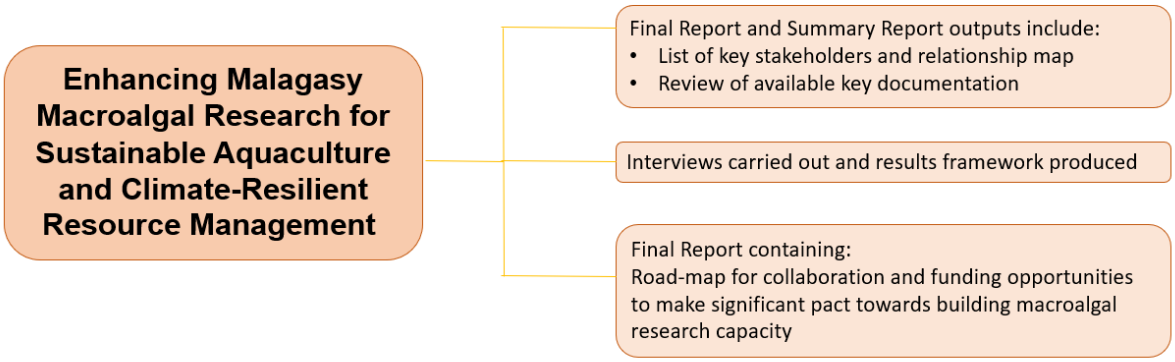

Figure 5: Summary of Delivery through the Sustainable Aquaculture workstream

Aiming to enhance Malagasy macroalgal research for sustainable aquaculture and climate-resilient resource management, OCPP performed a stakeholder mapping exercise and strategic review of key research documentation to inform future development of the sector. Interviews with key stakeholders were conducted and findings informed the development of a roadmap for collaboration, signposting funding opportunities to build macroalgal research capacity.

Ocean Literacy

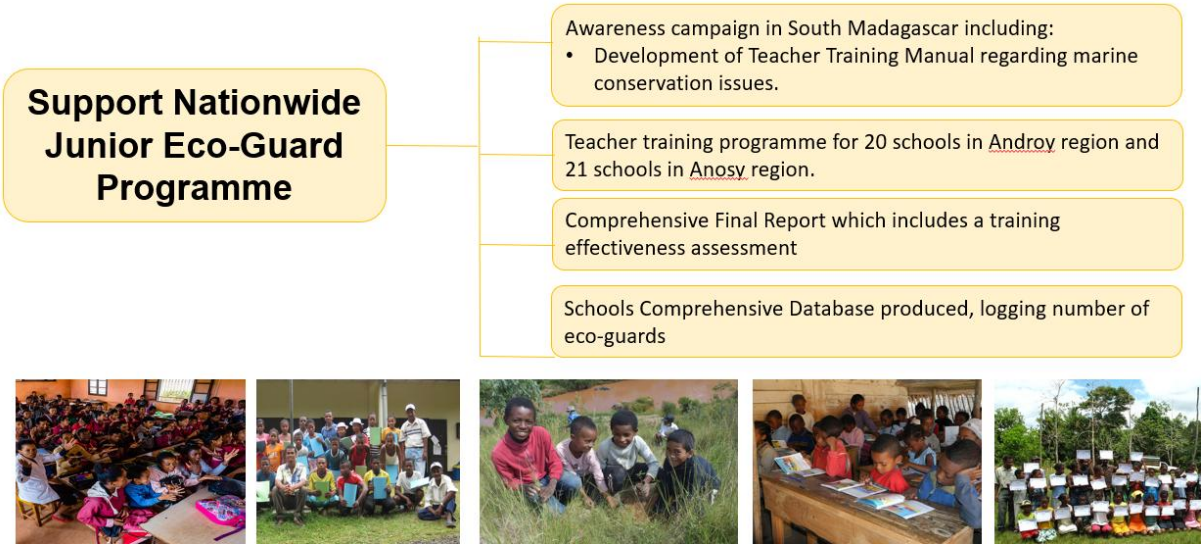

Figure 6: Summary of Delivery through the Ocean Literacy workstream

OCPP delivered a major education and awareness initiative in southern Madagascar through a partnership with C3 Madagascar, strengthening environmental learning and youth engagement across the Androy and Anosy regions. In close collaboration with the Ministry of National Education and regional authorities, C3 delivered intensive training for over 90 teachers from 41 coastal schools,

equipping them with practical tools and knowledge on marine biodiversity, climate change, sustainable resource use, and safeguarding.

A core achievement was the development and rollout of an updated Teacher Training Manual and region-specific environmental education toolkits, including storybooks, posters, classroom guides, and Junior Ecoguard uniforms. These resources enabled teachers to integrate marine topics directly into lessons and lead hands on conservation activities with students.

Following the training, teachers established Junior Ecoguard (JE) clubs in every participating school, resulting in the recruitment of 1,025 new youth Ecoguards - exceeding the initial programme target. Through these clubs, students have begun leading awareness campaigns, organising school environmental action plans, and engaging their communities in conservation.

To support long term continuity, OCPP facilitated the establishment of regional TANOMAFI coordination boards in both Androy and Anosy. These multistakeholder boards - comprising teachers, education officials and environmental authorities - provide ongoing oversight, mentoring and reporting between schools and regional partners, helping to institutionalise marine conservation education beyond the lifetime of the programme.

This workstream has significantly expanded environmental literacy in two of Madagascar's most underserved regions, embedding marine conservation into school systems and empowering thousands of young people as future stewards of the country's coastal ecosystems.

GEDSI and SEAH

Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) and safeguarding are central considerations for OCPP in Madagascar, where deep social and structural inequalities shape how communities engage with the marine environment. The SDDirect GEDSI analysis (published in 2025) and OPM Political Economy Assessment undertaken in 2023 (unpublished) highlighted the scale of these challenges: women and girls face high levels of violence and early marriage, limited access to decision making, and significant barriers to education, employment and health services. Adolescents, particularly girls, experience heightened deprivation and vulnerability, with one third of maternal deaths occurring among girls under 18. These inequalities are further compounded by poverty, geographic isolation and entrenched social norms, all of which influence who participates in, benefits from, and is exposed to risks within the blue economy.

These dynamics underscored the need for a careful, inclusive and community centred approach across OCPP's workstreams. In response, OCPP embedded GEDSI and safeguarding considerations across programme delivery, ensuring that technical assistance did not inadvertently reinforce exclusion but instead opened pathways for fair participation. This has been particularly important in the south, where OCPP's largescale education and awareness initiative with C3 Madagascar reached teachers, youth and schools in communities with some of the highest gender related risks in the country.

The programme integrated dedicated safeguarding and consent modules delivered with SEED Madagascar as part of teacher training, addressing issues such as sexual harassment, child abuse and school-based vulnerabilities. By coupling marine conservation education with practical safeguarding training, teachers were better equipped to create safer learning environments and support the establishment of Junior Ecoguard clubs in 41 schools. Over 1,025 young people joined these clubs, more than half of whom were girls, representing a significant step towards engaging youth, especially

adolescent girls, in community environmental leadership. At the 2026 Zanzibar WIO Emergency Response symposium, we ran a session collaboratively with IORA on GEDSI in the emergency response industry which was a useful session for delegates to identify barriers and share knowledge on the topic.

Alongside education efforts, OCPP has strengthened gender responsive governance through its support to the Western Indian Ocean LMMA Alliance. The Alliance's tools, investment strategy and emerging Trust Fund have been designed with a deliberate gender and social inclusion lens, ensuring that funding is accessible to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), women led groups and community-based organisations. By integrating best practice on equitable participation and meaningful representation into governance structures, the Alliance positions Madagascar as a regional leader in inclusive community led marine management.

To support consistent implementation across the partnership, OCPP has developed a comprehensive GEDSI Toolkit for the blue economy that will provide practical guidance, templates and monitoring tools. The toolkit has been translated into several languages including French. It will help country teams and partners identify and address GEDSI risks, strengthen safeguarding protocols, and integrate inclusive design principles into future programming and transition planning. GEDSI workshops were coordinated through OCPP with valued contributions from our Malagasy partners.

Across all strands of work, OCPP's approach in Madagascar reflects the programme's wider ambition: to ensure that marine conservation and sustainable ocean management improves the wellbeing of those most affected by environmental degradation and climate change, and that girls, women, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups can participate fully, safely and meaningfully in the opportunities the blue economy provides.

Conclusion

The OCPP–Madagascar partnership has delivered a powerful, coordinated response to some of the country's most pressing marine challenges, strengthening national capability, empowering coastal communities, and creating the foundations for long-term, climate resilient ocean governance. The results captured throughout this report show the scale and impact of this work: the established WIO LMMA Alliance, over 25 responders trained to internationally accredited IMO standards, a national seagrass monitoring protocol adopted and implemented across the MPA network, 1,025 youth engaged as Junior Ecoguards, 41 schools equipped with new marine conservation curricula, and a strengthened national approach to fisheries monitoring, species protection, and marine pollution preparedness.

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These achievements have only been possible because OCPP in Madagascar has been defined by collaboration, co-design, and shared ownership. Government leadership through the Ministry for Fisheries and the Blue Economy, MEDD, CSP, OLEP and Madagascar National Parks ensured that support aligned with national priorities and built lasting institutional capability. Partnerships with MIHARI, community organisations, teachers, youth groups, universities, NGOs such as Blue Ventures, IUCN, WWF, WCS and C3, and regional bodies including WIOMSA, IOC and the Nairobi Convention, created a genuinely multi-actor platform for progress, one that bridges community knowledge, scientific evidence, regional best practice, and national policy.

OCPP has strengthened Madagascar's ability to protect its marine resources on multiple fronts: more effective surveillance against IUU fishing; improved ecosystem monitoring and species protection legislation; enhanced readiness for oil and chemical spills; increased community-led conservation across MMAs; and the largest coordinated environmental education initiative ever delivered in the south. These collective gains improve decision-making, reinforce climate resilience, and support the well-being of the millions of people who depend on marine resources for food, income and cultural identity.

Above all, this partnership has shown what is possible when countries and communities work together in pursuit of shared goals. OCPP leaves Madagascar with stronger systems, stronger skills, and stronger connections, from local teachers to national inspectors, from community leaders to regional practitioners. The collaborative foundations laid through this programme will continue to support Madagascar's progress toward sustainable fisheries, healthy coastal ecosystems, inclusive blue economy growth, and resilient coastal communities long after the programme's conclusion.

The OCPP–Madagascar partnership stands as a testament to what can be achieved when technical support is grounded in national leadership, community voice, and genuine cooperation, ensuring that Madagascar is better equipped to safeguard its extraordinary marine heritage for generations to come.

Case Study

WIO Regional Symposium on Marine Pollution Emergency Response

In January 2026, OCPP, the Nairobi Convention Secretariat and the Indian Ocean Commission convened all **10 Western Indian Ocean (WIO) countries in Zanzibar** to strengthen regional preparedness and response to marine pollution incidents. The symposium brought together governments, scientists and technical specialists to build coordinated capability to protect marine environments and coastal communities.

A key outcome was the finalisation of **the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP)**, to be presented for adoption at Nairobi Convention COP 12 in 2026, alongside a multi-year roadmap outlining priorities, risks and opportunities for cooperation.

Participants received accredited, hands-on training in emergency response skills—**including HNS, oiled wildlife response, dispersants, and claims and compensation**—resulting in significant knowledge gains across all countries.

The symposium strengthened national readiness in countries such as Madagascar and Mozambique, where regional coordination is critical.

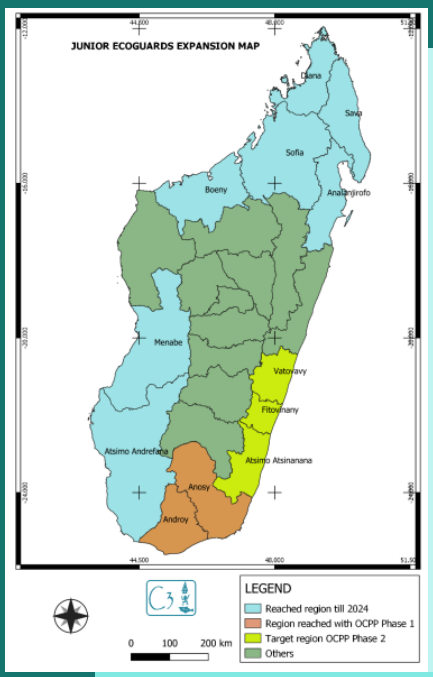
Key outputs:

- Finalised RCP for **COP 12** adoption
- Agreed implementation priorities
- Short, medium and long-term recommendations, including a regional risk assessment and exercise programme

Overall, the event marked a major milestone for the WIO region—strengthening partnerships, enhancing technical capacity, and advancing a coordinated approach to protecting marine ecosystems and coastal livelihoods.

Case Study

Building Madagascar's next generation of marine stewards



In 2025, OCPP partnered with C3 Madagascar to transform environmental education in the country's far south—one of the regions most affected by climate stress, declining marine resources and limited access to environmental learning. Through OCPP support, C3 delivered four-day training workshops in Fort Dauphin for 90+ teachers from 41 schools across Androy and Anosy.

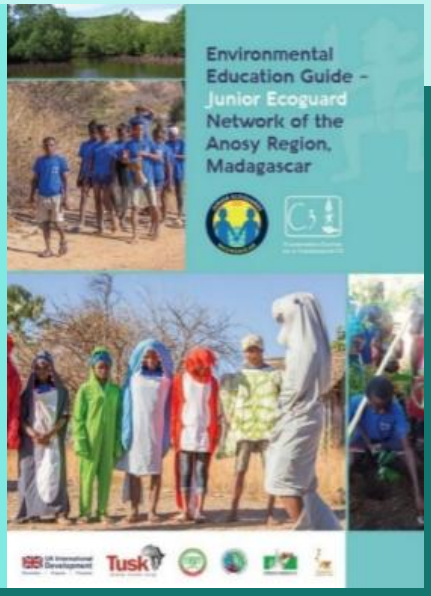
The workshops blended classroom learning, hands-on demonstrations and a field visit, covering mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass, marine megafauna, community resilience and responsible fisheries. Safeguarding and child protection sessions—delivered with SEED Madagascar—were critical for this high-risk region. Knowledge gains were substantial, with some topics showing up to 100% improvement.

A major output was the creation of Teacher Toolkits—including updated manuals, seven illustrated storybooks, conservation posters, classroom guides and branded Junior Ecoguard (JE) uniforms. These enabled teachers to immediately roll marine content into lessons and establish structured eco-clubs.

Within weeks, 41 new JE clubs were launched, enrolling 1,025 students (54% girls). Each developed its own environmental action plan, ranging from mangrove planting and school clean-ups to waste management days and biodiversity monitoring.

To ensure sustainability, OCPP helped establish TANOMAFI regional coordination boards, which now oversee JE activities, support teachers, and link schools with regional authorities.

This investment has created one of southern Madagascar's largest youth conservation networks, reaching more than 22,000 students. By equipping teachers and empowering young people, OCPP is helping nurture a new generation of coastal stewards who will drive long-term environmental resilience.



Annex 1 - Full Stakeholder List

Name of Stakeholder(s) (Include Acronym)	Type of Stakeholder
Nairobi Convention	International NGO
Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)	International NGO
Western Indian Ocean Certification of Marine Protected Area Professionals (WIO-COMPAS)	International NGO
System of Madagascar's protected areas (SAPM)	Government
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	International NGO
Blue Ventures	International NGO
Reef Doctor	Madagascar NGO
Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MPEB)	Government: Madagascar
Ministry of Marine Resources and Fisheries Madagascar	Government: Madagascar
Centre Surveillance du Peches (CSP)	Government: Madagascar
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Government: Madagascar
Ministry of Environment, Water and Forest and Tourism	Government: Madagascar
MIHARI: Madagascar's locally managed marine area network	Madagascar NGO
Fisherwomen Leadership Program (FWLP)	Other
EAF-NANSEN	Other
UN DP	Other
Copefrito	Madagascar Industry
Indian Ocean Trapang (IOT)	Madagascar Industry
Fikambanana Miaro sy Hanasoa ny Ranomasina (FI.MI.HA.RA)	Madagascar Cooperative
Fitsinjo	Madagascar Cooperative
Maritime and River Port Agency	Madagascar Cooperative
University of Toliara - Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines (Institute of Fisheries and Marine Sciences)	Academic
FiTI - Fisheries Transparency initiative	Other
Centre National de Recherches Océanographiques Nosy-Be	Government: Madagascar
Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization of Madagascar	Government: Madagascar
OLEP Organe de Lutte contre les Evenements de Pollution	Government: Madagascar
Community Centered Conservation (C3)	Madagascar NGO
Madagascar National Parks	Government: Madagascar
Fondation pour les Aires Protégées et la Biodiversité de Madagascar (FAPBM)	Madagascar NGO
WWF	International NGO
SEED Madagascar	NGO
Ocean Farmers	NGO
FAO	Regional body
Resolve Consultancy	Other
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	Regional body
Madagascar Fisheries Surveillance Centre (Navy)	Government
Madagascar National Parks	NGO
FAPBM	NGO
C3 – Community Centred Conservation	NGO
Indian Ocean Commission	Regional intergovernmental organisation

Large-scale Seagrass Mapping and Management Initiative (LaSMMI)	NGO
Pew Charitable Trusts	International NGO

Case Study

Strengthening National Surveillance to Combat IUU Fishing in Madagascar

From 2024–2026, OCPP partnered with Madagascar's Centre de Surveillance des Pêches (CSP) to significantly strengthen national capacity to detect and deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing which is one of the biggest threats to coastal livelihoods and food security.

Across three deployments, OCPP delivered intensive, practical training for all CSP inspectors and analysts, building skills in remote surveillance, targeted patrol planning, vessel inspection, evidence collection, and enforcement procedures. Training combined classroom learning with real-world practice aboard CSP's patrol vessel *Atsantsa*, giving teams the confidence and capability to identify non-compliance and apply appropriate sanctions.

Training covered:

- Risk-based patrol planning and intelligence-led vessel targeting
- Use of analytical tools for detecting suspicious activity
- Inspection of catch, gear, and documentation
- Health and safety during at-sea operations

The final deployment introduced a Train-the-Trainer module, enabling CSP staff to independently deliver future training and embedding sustainability and reducing long-term reliance on external support.

As a result, CSP now has a more skilled, confident, and self-sustaining enforcement workforce, better equipped to protect Madagascar's fisheries and the coastal communities that depend on them.

"The training has strengthened collaboration with fishing communities, which are now more involved in fisheries resource management"

Georges - Fisheries Inspector - CSP Toliara

"Following the training, the main benefit for the CSP (Fisheries Monitoring Centre) lies primarily in its working methodology. It has enabled us to shift from a reactive approach to a more proactive one, based on risk analysis and prioritization. Specifically, surveillance information is now better prioritized, which facilitates the identification of situations requiring immediate action and improves operational preparation."

Esperant – Fisheries Inspector – CSP Morondava