

POSTER

Building resilient marine protected area (MPA) in Nosy Hara National Park

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Nosy Hara National Park, located in the northwest of Madagascar and covering an area of 125,471 hectares, is the first protected area in the country to incorporate climate change into its management. The marine park management plan was developed with less focus on climate change issues. However, this area has already experienced changes in precipitation patterns, higher frequency of strong winds, sea level rise, etc, which could have several impacts on its conservation targets and coastal communities living around the MPA. Since 2008, WWF and Madagascar National Parks have combined their efforts to address this emerging challenge in Nosy Hara and to build a resilient MPA as a tool for increasing social and ecological resilience to climate change.

The building blocks comprise: climate change capacity building for MPA managers and key stakeholders, reviewing the status of Nosy Hara conservation and social targets by undertaking a multi-expert and multi-method vulnerability assessment, screening adaptation options which help to address both human pressures and climate related threats. Results have shown the degree of vulnerability of each target which is the foundation of the climate-smart MPA zoning (in order to maintain existing resilient area, to strengthen the most vulnerable area and to protect climate refugia) and priority adaptation options which support the effectiveness of strategies developed for Nosy Hara. Based on these results, Nosy Hara management and monitoring plans are under revision. Having these plans will also support the role of resilient MPA as a global strategy to help marine biodiversity and coastal communities to adapt against current and future climate impacts. This work done in Nosy Hara will help MPA managers to better understand the link between business as usual work and adaptation. It will mainly serve as a pilot approach for replication in all protected areas in Madagascar.