
CONCEPT NOTE

Side Event, 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference

Strengthen the resilience of coastal populations and fishing communities to climate change to contribute to the achievement of target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (30x30)

<

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Climate change and biodiversity conservation are at the heart of global and national policies, but the linkages between global and national strategies, and their implementation with local populations, still need to be strengthened. Marine conservation, through protected and conserved areas, is essential to build climate resilience. However, its success depends on equitable and integrated approaches with local people and their economic activities.

Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world, has 5,603 km of coastline, 1,141,000 km² of Exclusive Economic Zone, an ocean asset valued at USD 10.8 billion. The Big Island is blessed with a biodiversity that is both rich and unique in the world. However, the challenges facing this island nation are enormous, including the destruction of people, loss of biodiversity and marine pollution. The majority of its coastal population depends directly on marine and coastal ecosystems for their livelihoods, but is among the most vulnerable. The consequences of these problems are most felt in coastal areas, making these populations among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, coastal erosion, more frequent and intense cyclones, and degradation of marine ecosystems.

In the framework of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference, whose theme is "Committing together to sustainable ocean management", Madagascar wishes to highlight the specific challenges faced by coastal populations and linking them to international initiatives, in particular Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (30x30), which aims to protect at least 30% of the world's land and 30% of the world's seas by 2030. This sideline event aims to highlight the connection between local, national and global challenges and mobilize international actors around concrete solutions to strengthen the resilience of these communities, while promoting sustainable management of oceans and coastal areas.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE EVENT

With the support of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC for N&P), an inter-governmental coalition of 120 countries supporting the implementation of the 30x30, bringing together international expert partners and other countries with the same challenges as Madagascar, the overall objective of the event is to articulate sustainable solutions to address biodiversity loss, impacts of climate change and strengthen the resilience of coastal populations as a whole, but more particularly fishing communities. The Coalition will be able to present its various technical and financial assistance tools, including the Matchmaking Platform and its new Financial Support Mechanism (FMR).

Specifically, these are:

- Recall the challenges of fishing communities in the face of the impacts of climate change and the constraints of biodiversity conservation in island states.

- Share good practices and local and international initiatives in coastal resilience building.
- Present opportunities for capacity building and technical and financial support with the HAC for N&P, including the Matchmaking Platform and the new Rapid Deployment Mechanism (RDM)
- Generate productive dialogues between international partners, countries, and experts to address marine conservation and climate change challenges
- Propose policy and technical recommendations for integrated and sustainable coastal zone management for the development of the blue economy and biodiversity conservation.

3. EXPECTED RESULTS

At the end of this sideline event, the following results are expected:

- A better understanding of the specific challenges of island states, Madagascar in particular, in terms of coastal vulnerability.
- A better understanding of the role and tools of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People to support local and national initiatives and strengthen global collaboration.
- Presentation of the projects supported by the MDR of the recipient countries
- Concrete commitments from technical and financial partners to support resilience projects.
- Policy and technical recommendations for sustainable coastal zone management and developing the blue economy.
- A roadmap for the implementation of the initiatives discussed.

4. KEY THEMES

4.1. Issues related to the vulnerability of coastal populations to climate change and resilience

initiatives:

- Impacts of climate change on marine and coastal people and ecosystems
- Challenges of restoring coastal ecosystems and developing alternative livelihoods
- Development and implementation of ocean governance tools and legislative frameworks for the protection of coastal areas
- Integration of local communities in decision-making processes.

4.2 International partnerships: How to link the local to the global? How can we overcome the sectorization between biodiversity conservation, the blue economy and climate change?

- Strengthening cross-cutting and multi-sectoral approaches
- Regional and international cooperation for transboundary ocean management.

5. EVENT FORMAT

The event will take place in a **series of panel discussions**, with interventions from government officials, technical experts, community leaders and international partners. It will include:

- **Introduction** (10 min): Background
- **Panel discussion#1** (20 min): Presentation of Madagascar's issues: interventions by national experts on the challenges and solutions (MPEB, MEDD, MIHARI).
- Q&A session (5 min)
- **Panel Discussion #2** (20 min): Reflections on Common Challenges by Other Countries (WIOMSA and HAC for N&P Members) and Support Initiatives (HAC for N&P)
- **Conclusion** (5 min)

6. Target Audience

- Representatives of coastal and island states in attendance.

- International and regional organizations (UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, etc.).
- NGOs and civil society actors.
- Private sector and investors.
- Representatives of local communities and traditional leaders.
- National and international media.

7. Potential partners

- Government of Madagascar: Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.
- High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC for N&P)
- World Bank and Green Climate Fund.
- MIONJO Project
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Local and international civil society organizations.
- Western Indian Ocean for Marine Science Association (WIOMSA)

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A summary report will be produced at the end of the event, including the main conclusions, commitments made, as well as the main recommendations. This document will be shared with all participants and will serve as a basis for monitoring actions.

9. CONCLUSION

This sidelines event represents a unique opportunity for Madagascar and friendly island countries to advocate for sustainable ocean management and the resilience of coastal populations. By mobilizing key actors and sharing innovative solutions, it will help strengthen the capacity of coastal communities to face the challenges of climate change, while preserving marine ecosystems for future generations.

MAIN CONTACTS:

- José Victor RANDRIANARIMANANA, *Director in charge of Ocean Governance and Marine Spatial Planning – Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, Madagascar.*
+261 34 49 102 53
mpeb.dagps@gmail.com
- Hajaina RAHARISON, *Technical Assistant for Transparency in Marine Fisheries – Focal Point of the MIONJO Project. Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, Madagascar.*
+261 34 45 570 70
raharison.hajaina@gmail.com
- Ranjaliva Vero RAMANANIHANITRAMALALA, *Head of Ocean Governance Department, Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, Madagascar.*
+261 34 05 593 09
gasilovely@gmail.com
- Saotra Dera Noella RAZAFINTSALAMA, *Operations and Knowledge Management Manager – MIONJO Project, Madagascar.*
+261 34 17 456 50

- Sahoby Randriamahaleo, CBD Alternate Focal Point, SBSTTA Focal Point, HAC Focal Point – MEDD
sahobyivyrandriamahaleo@yahoo.fr
- Jason Dozier, Head of Political Mobilization, High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People
Jason.dozier@hacfornatureandpeople.org

DATE AND VENUE: To be specified according to the conference schedule