**Summary Lessons learned for the “Madagascar Marine Protected Area” Project**

| Summary of Key Lesson | Application to MPA Child Project |
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| Focus on building the capacity of various levels of government to maximize results, build country ownership, and ensure sustainability | The project will work with relevant ministries, and at different levels (national, regional, local), to ensure coordination of project activities. |
| Strengthen existing institutions (agencies, platforms) rather than create new institutions.    Building the capacity of existing institutions reduces staffing issues, confusion over roles and responsibilities, turnover, brain drain, and increases ownership and government capacity. | The project is taking profit of several existing institutions. (1) The project will work closely with the Sydney Promise Steering Committee to accelerate achievement of Aichi Target 11, while also ensuring government ownership. (2) The project is also utilizing MIHARI, which provides a solid platform for dialogue between government, community members and NGOs and NGO promoters at the national level |
| For policy development, maximize consistency of different sectoral laws and policies, fill gaps and address conflicting policies | The project will provide recommendations for simplifying existing regulatory frameworks that guide creation of MPAs/LMMAs. An analysis identifying gaps and any conflicting laws/policies will preface these recommendations. The project will also support the initial studies for MSP, with the ultimate goal of providing inter-sectoral coordination. |
| Incentives for sustainable natural resource management should be provided to community groups—the revenue should be sufficient to offset costs for resource protection, and revenue should be distributed to the right people. | Component 3 of the project seeks to generate revenue for local communities. The project will build on successful examples where revenue is tied to sustainable resource management, to benefit both marine resources and community livelihoods. |
| Building capacity on conservation techniques needs to be coupled with land tenure security. | Through Component 2, the project will provide recommendations to improve/recognize user rights in existing regulatory frameworks. Through Component 3, the project will build capacity around effective management. |
| The M&E plan should prioritize indicators and focus on tracking outcomes rather than activities. The M&E plan should be used for adaptive management purposes, with responsibilities and oversight made clear. Qualitative data is helpful for determining the quality of the outputs produced. Quality control by an independent evaluator would be helpful. | The M&E Plan was developed to track project progress at the outcome and objective level. As such, the number of indicators was limited. The M&E plan includes an annual reflection workshop that will be used to identify lessons learned and measures for adaptive management. Qualitative data will be provided in the 6-monthly project progress reports. An independent evaluation will be done at midterm and close, however the PMU will do quality assurance of indicators on an annual basis. |
| Governance structure   * High turnover of staff can create difficulties. Recruiting national or international technical assistance can fill a human resources gap and provide support to the PMU. * The governance structure should avoid brain-drain | The project governance structure recruits staff from within government and externally, to avoid brain drain. In addition, WWF Madagascar will provide technical assistance and institutional knowledge on the project should any turnover occur. |
| If equipment is given, resources should be set aside for maintenance and repair—this will ensure the equipment is not wasted or underutilized. | Equipment is budgeted within the project, and maintenance costs have been provided to ensure all equipment is fully utilized throughout the length of the project. |