

Blue lines indicate the area meeting the ISRA Criteria; dashed lines indicate the suggested buffer for use in the development of appropriate place-based conservation measures

## POINTE ANALALAVA ISRA

### Western Indian Ocean Region

#### SUMMARY

Pointe Analalava is located in northwest Madagascar. The area is characterised by a diverse range of habitats including coral reefs, seagrass meadows, mangrove ecosystems, and pelagic waters. The area is situated in shelf waters and overlaps with two Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas: Northern Mozambique Channel and Mozambique Channel. Within this area there are: **threatened species** and **undefined aggregations** (Whale Shark *Rhincodon typus*).

#### CRITERIA

**Criterion A - Vulnerability; Sub-criterion C5 - Undefined Aggregations**

## MADAGASCAR

0-100 metres

1,271.64 km<sup>2</sup>





## DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT

Pointe Analalava is located in northwest Madagascar. This area encompasses mostly shallow reefs, next to a deep shelf, with the habitat composed of sandy substrate, reefs, mangroves, seagrass patches, and pelagic waters (Metcalf et al. 2007). Bays within this area are known to become nutrient-rich seasonally when the sea surface temperature rises (September–December) (Pripp et al. 2014).

The area overlaps with two Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs): Mozambique Channel (CBD 2023a) and Northern Mozambique Channel (CBD 2023b).

This Important Shark and Ray Area is pelagic and is delineated from inshore and surface waters (0 m) to 100 m based on the bathymetry of the area.

## ISRA CRITERIA

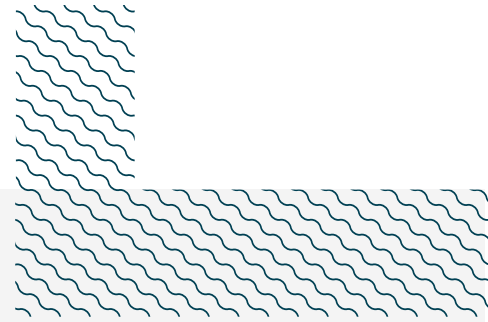
### CRITERION A – VULNERABILITY

The one Qualifying Species within the area is considered threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The Whale Shark is assessed as Endangered (Pierce & Norman 2016).

### SUB-CRITERION C5 – UNDEFINED AGGREGATIONS

Pointe Analalava is an important area for undefined aggregations of one shark species.

Eight Whale Sharks were tagged around Nosy Be with SPOT5 satellite tags in 2016 (Diamant et al. 2018). Four of the sharks (50%) made movements to the south along the west coast of Madagascar where kernel density estimates revealed a Whale Shark activity hotspot ~180 km to the southeast near Pointe d’Analalava. In addition to tagged animal space use, this area was also identified as an important area for Whale Sharks through interview surveys of fishers and dive operators in the area, who indicated that this area is consistently used by Whale Sharks across years (Jonahson & Harding 2007). Combined, this information provides evidence for Pointe Analalava as an important area for Whale Sharks, however the nature and function of this aggregation remains unknown.



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## **Suggested citation**

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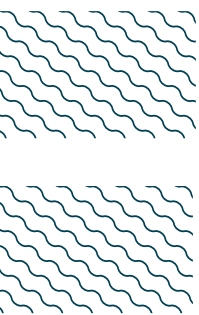
## QUALIFYING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category	Global Depth Range (m)	ISRA Criteria/Sub-criteria Met									
				A	B	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	
<b>SHARKS</b>													
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale Shark	EN	0-1,928	X							X		

## SUPPORTING SPECIES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Red List Category
<b>SHARKS</b>		
<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>	Grey Reef Shark	EN
<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	Sandbar Shark	EN
<i>Hemipristis elongata</i>	Snaggletooth Shark	VU
<i>Loxodon macrorhinus</i>	Sliteye Shark	NT
<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great Hammerhead	CR
<i>Stegostoma tigrinum</i>	Indo-Pacific Leopard Shark	EN
<i>Trienodon obesus</i>	Whitetip Reef Shark	VU
<b>RAYS</b>		
<i>Acroteriobatus andysabini</i>	Malagasy Blue-spotted Guitarfish	EN
<i>Aetobatus ocellatus</i>	Spotted Eagle Ray	EN
<i>Himantura uarnak</i>	Coach Whipray	EN
<i>Mobula birostris</i>	Oceanic Manta Ray	EN
<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>	Shorthorned Pygmy Devil Ray	EN
<i>Mobula mobular</i>	Spinetail Devil Ray	EN
<i>Neotrygon caeruleopunctata</i>	Bluespotted Maskray	LC
<i>Pastinachus ater</i>	Broad Cowtail Ray	VU
<i>Taeniura lymma</i>	Bluespotted Lagoon Ray	LC
<i>Taeniurops meyeri</i>	Blotched Fantail Ray	VU
<i>Urogymnus granulatus</i>	Mangrove Whipray	EN

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Categories are available by searching species names at [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org). Abbreviations refer to: CR, Critically Endangered; EN, Endangered; VU, Vulnerable; NT, Near Threatened; LC, Least Concern; DD, Data Deficient.





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