

# George (Bic) Manahira

MARINE ENVIRONMENTALIST

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Andavadoaka, Madagascar



## PERSONAL DETAILS

**Date of birth**  
29th June 1980

**Nationality**  
Malagasy

**Visa status**  
Approved

## QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATION

**Instructor Development Course Staff Instructor – Certified by PADI,**  
Andavadoaka, Madagascar

**Emergency First Response Instructor – Certified by PADI**  
Andavadoaka, Madagascar

**Social Monitoring Certification – University of Reunion Island**  
France

**Reef check instructor – University of Reunion Island**  
France

**Dive Gear Maintenance - Certified by Aqua Lung**  
Johannesburg, South Africa

**Boat Maintenance – Certified by Dive Tech**  
Johannesburg, South Africa

**Licensed Boat Captain**  
Madagascar

## CONFERENCE & TRAINING COURSE

**IUCN WCC - World Conservation Conference**  
Hawaii (2016)

Took part in the workshop "Constructing Resilience: The 'nature' and 'culture' of food cultivation in the landscape and seascape" and presented experiences of inter-generational transfer of traditional knowledge and management systems.

**UNICEF National Conference**  
Antananarivo, Madagascar (2011)

Presented on the work of Club Alo Alo, a conservation and environment focused youth club.

**COREMO3 Data Base with Reunion University**  
Mauritius (2010)

Completed training in use of COREMO 3 data base

**Seagrass Net Training by California University**  
Tulear, Madagascar (2009)

Completed training for seagrass monitoring techniques

**WIOMSA - Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, Mari Culture Workshop**

Zanzibar, Tanzania (2008)

Attended as representative of Blue ventures and presented our experience in aquaculture projects

**UNDP Equator Prize Awards Ceremony**  
Berlin (2007)

Attended as a representative of The Village of Andavadoaka (prize winners)

## LANGUAGES

Malagasy

Vezo

English

French

Italian

Spanish

## EDUCATION

**Higher National Diploma**  
Lycee Technic Electrician & Mechanic  
Tulear, Madagascar  
2001

▪ Electrician

## SKILLS

Proficient in Microsoft Office

Proficient in Google Doc

## HOBBIES

Building Construction - Aquatic Sports - Free Diving - Kite Surfing - Wind Surfing

## ABOUT ME

- Passionate and self-driven marine environmentalist with nearly 15 years experience in the field of marine resource management, conservation and environmental archaeology.
- Played a driving role in the development of the marine conservation in the coastal communities of the Southern Madagascar to rebuild coastal fisheries, reverse marine biodiversity loss, improve food security and build socio-ecological resilience to climate change.
- Accumulated extensive knowledge, research skill sets and practical field experience in the study of environmental archaeology, anthropology and ethnography through my role as Director of the Morombe Archaeological Project. The objective of the research, investigates human-environment interactions in the coastal region of Madagascar specifically in the context of resource scarcity, decreasing biodiversity and climatic and environmental change.
- Highly experienced dive professional, that is a PADI certified IDC Staff Instructor with over 5,000 dives. Speaks 5 languages fluently and is the first Malagasy to be qualified as a dive instructor. Currently is the only Malagasy IDC Staff Instructor.
- An active enthusiast and self taught expert on marine science (fish & benthic study), study of the ancestral history of the southwestern coastal community 'vezo' tribe and Western Indian Ocean environmental archaeology.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Morombe Archaeological Project (M.A.P) Local Director

Yale University, Pennsylvania State University / Andavadoaka, Madagascar / Jan 2011 - Present

- Responsible to train and manage the local field technician team that include; fish experts, surveyors and excavators
- Lead and organize all the; local onsite excavations, surveys, data collection, initial finding documentaion and finding analysis of different materials such as ceramics, animal bones and fish bones..
- All findings provides major role to support various MAP research papers to address questions about the co-evolution of people, climate, landscapes and seascapes of the southwest coast of Madagascar.
- Responsible to prepare and present the monthly local project budget to Pennsylvania State University & Yale University.

### Marine Conservation Expedition Coordinator - Dive Manager

Blue Ventures / Andavadoaka, Madagascar / Jan 2016 - May 2020

- Led marine science lectures & identification training, reef check & fish surveys
- Present the analysis of findings from the surveys to the local community
- Marine Protected Area (MPA) monitoring and data collection
- Manage the dive centre operations
- Head of health and safety of diving on site
- Responsible for all dive equipment maintenance, repair and inventory
- Train and certify PADI dive courses
- Plan and construct permanent buoys for the Marine Protected Area (MPA) demarcation
- Monthly periodic update on expedition progress on conservation and community work provided to London head office management.
- Active involvement role in the planning, organizing and management of the volunteer expeditions program.
- Responsible to ensure that the defined benefit objectives and expectations are met for all stakeholders; local community, local staff and volunteers (e.g. learning, training and knowledge enhancement)
- Responsible for diving logistics and repairs
- Train and certify PADI dive courses
- Active involvement in environmental youth clubs
- Organize and lead community meetings with Velondriake Association to oversee and monitor the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA)

### Dive Instructor

Blue Passion Dive Centre - Fabricia Hotel, / Elba Island, Italy

/ Jan 2015 - Jan 2016

- Responsible for diving logistics and repairs
- Instruct and certify PADI dive courses

### Aquaculture Dive Technician

Ankanjo Company / Antananarivo, Madagascar / Jan 2016 - Dec 2016

- Construction of the fish cage for the Acipenser project in Mantasoa's lake
- Task included removal and replacement of the core mort for building the fish Sturgeon cage for caviar farming.

### Assistant Field Scientist - Dive Leader - Assistant Dive Manager - Dive Manager

Blue Ventures / Andavadoaka, Madagascar / Jan 2003 - Jan 2011

- Marine Protected Area (MPA): Responsible for exploring new designated MPA with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Assist with the set up of new designated MPA. Built and installed permanent MPA marker buoys.
- Primary Liaison with the local stakeholders (both community & employees) and the management; represented Blue Ventures at meetings with local community representatives
- Managed and carried out reef monitoring (fish, benthic, fish biomass, and coral recruitment and bleaching) surveys and its submission to Reef Check Database
- Responsible for the monitoring and data collection of; the seagrass net, Baobab and Social Monitoring (SocMont)
- Trained local women in fish catch monitoring and managed data submission
- Managed the environmental youth club, focusing on marine conservation
- Assisted the science training of volunteers (Indian Ocean benthic and fish ID and survey techniques)
- Responsible for diving logistics and repairs
- Assisted with Open Water, Advanced Open Water and Rescue Diver PADI Courses

## REFERENCES

### Dr. Kristina G. Douglass, Assistant Professor

Anthropology Department, The Pennsylvania State University, USA

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### Dr Alasdair Harris, Founder & Executive Director

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