



NEWSLETTER

MWIOPO

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## A new chapter begins

The first quarter of 2014 ends with the farewell of Richard Hughes and Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana's appointment as WWF MWIOPO's new Country Director starting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. I am honored and humbled to serve as the interim representative, bridging the period between these two talented leaders. WWF MWIOPO is starting a new chapter, yet we remain driven by the great challenge to preserve Madagascar's biodiversity and to develop the Malagasy communities in a sustainable way.

We are also transitioning to a new organizational structure. One in which our work will be focused within priority landscapes. This new approach will allow us to address conservation challenges in a more comprehensive, top-to-bottom way in four priority landscapes: the Mahafaly Plateau Land and Seascape, the Northern Highlands Landscape, the Northern Mozambique Channel Seascape and the Manambolo Tsiribihina Mangroves Landscape. With this new direction we can more efficiently conserve and promote the biodiversity in these areas, but also very importantly, help local villagers develop sustainable livelihoods.

The first quarter of 2014 was marked by our international event Earth Hour. In March we celebrated Madagascar's biggest and best Earth Hour ever. This year's theme in Madagascar was 'forests', raising awareness of the vital and fragile nature of Madagascar's forests. The big event this year was in Toliara where we distributed 2,000 more efficient Fatana Mitsitsy cook stoves. Other activities were also held in Antananarivo and, for the first time, in Morondava.

Bodo Rasendrasoa  
Regional Representative a.i.



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## Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana, the new leader of WWF MWIOPO

After 15 years of service within WWF, Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana has been selected to become the new Country Director in Madagascar. Nanie is taking over from Richard Hughes, who has led WWF MWIOPO since 2011.

Nanie is the first Malagasy woman to lead the organization in Madagascar and she is the first Malagasy Director of WWF MWIOPO since Vaohita Barthélémy in 1987.

Nanie started at WWF in 1999 as an Adaptive Management Consultant for the Ala Maiky (Spiny forest) ecoregion protection program in Southern Madagascar. She served as Conservation Director for WWF MWIOPO from 2004-2013. It will be under her direction that WWF MWIOPO will move towards the establishment of priority landscapes.

Nanie has been or is involved with various environmental action and reflection groups such as the Vahatra Association, the IUCN commission for the classification of protected areas, the editorial committee of the Madagascar Conservation and Development Journal, the board of directors of the Madagasikara Voakajy conservation NGO, the board of directors of Madagascar National Parks (2008/2011) and co-director of Madagascar's Commission on Protected Areas (2005/2009).



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## “Perspectives on Madagascar” Photo Exhibition

For our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary WWF MWIOPO organized a photo contest to capture images, both beautiful and troubling, of Madagascar. We received 1,500 photos across six categories (Animals, Plants of Madagascar, Water and Ocean, Human Impacts on the Environment, Community and Rural Life and a category for young photographers) and from these the best 30 pictures were chosen. When the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was over we realized that these images were too good not to share with more people, and so we organized a traveling photography exhibition, “Perspectives on Madagascar”. The exhibition had its debut showing in Park Andohalo in Antananarivo during Earth Hour and it was then the feature exhibition for the grand opening of the Hay Kanto Art Gallery. Future shows are planned for the La Varangue restaurant and the Modern Lycée on Ampefiloha in Tana, as well as shows in Toliara and Antsiranana in the coming months.



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# Earth Hour 2014: Madagascar focuses on reforestation and improved stoves

The protection of our forests, reforestation, energy savings and the use of efficient stoves were the focus of Madagascar's 2014 Earth Hour celebrations. Events were held in Antananarivo, in Toliara and, for the first time, in Morondava. These celebrations were opportunities for the three cities to raise awareness on the need to lead massive and regular reforestation, to start using efficient stoves at a wide scale and on the importance reviewing how we consume and can conserve energy.

## Toliara

2,000 efficient stoves were distributed on March 28, 2014, during the celebration of Earth Hour in Toliara. 1,600 stoves were produced by ADES and 400 stoves were made by local craftspeople, in collaboration with the GIZ and ATD-Quart Monde. Five stands were set up around the city to sell the stoves at a subsidized rate and a parade was held that toured through the city, visiting all five sales areas. The event was a big celebration with entertainment and awareness activities provided by the extraordinary drumming group, Bloco Malagasy, talented musicians from the Sacré Coeur and the Toliara Vintsy Club members.

## Morondava

In Morondava, WWF welcomed the commitment of the communities who mobilized themselves for the reforestation of mangroves. We launched a contest among nine communities with prizes for those able to lead the best reforestation efforts. An awareness day was also held, which included demonstrations on how to make your own fuel efficient wood stove, called "Fatana Kamado's".

## Antananarivo

The public primary school in the rural municipality of Ambatolampy Tsimahafotsy received a day of training on the preservation and maintenance of young trees. The trees were originally planted as part of Earth Hour 2013. Members of Tana's University Vintsy clubs took part in a flash mob on the Ralaimongo square, Independence Avenue. About 60 young people performed the "dance of the trees" to the great surprise of passers-by. The performance quickly drew a crowd and flyers were passed out about the importance of reforestation. At night various restaurants participated in the traditional Earth Hour candlelit dinners.



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## Lights out for Earth Hour

For the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Madagascar participated in the global Lights Out event, joining 7,000 cities around the world and over a billion people. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. the following historical buildings of Antananarivo symbolically turned off their lights for Earth Hour: the palace of Manjakamiadana, the train station of Soarano, the Municipal Stadium of Mahamasina and City Hall in Analakely.

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## Workshop for Environmental Civil Society Organizations

30 people representing six Environmental Civil Society Organizations (E-CSO) took part in a reflection workshop on the legal and regulatory frameworks of the E-CSO from February 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> in Antananarivo. This workshop was organized by WWF MWIOPPO under the project “Developing the Civil Society.” The workshop gave the opportunity to address issues faced by E-CSOs: establishing governance of mining, forest, marine and biodiversity resources and the failure of the political, legal, regulatory framework regulating the environment and E-CSOs in Madagascar.

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Participants also discussed situations that are disabling civil society, notably a lack of technical, financial and institutional capacity, but also the persistent poverty of Malagasy households, the lack of consideration and transparency towards the population, limited access to information, as well as a lack of coordination between the State and its divisions. Common resolutions and strategies have been developed by the participants to strengthen the Malagasy E-CSOs in their credibility and commitment.

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## WWF MWIOPPO staff reforestation day

In February, the big family of WWF MWIOPPO staff, volunteers and Club Vintsy members contributed to the reforestation, and maintenance of previously planted trees, on a hill at Ambatomirahavavy. The team planted species of trees including the tohiravina or *Canarium madagascariensis*, fresnes or *Fraxinus sp*, tsitohavina or *Dodonea madagascariensi*, ramy or *Canarium madagascariensis*, acacia or *Acacia mangium*, oaks or *Grevillea robusta*, liquidambar, mantalias or *Terminalia mantali*.

## CBO exchanges focus on partnership and associative management

The remote district of Marolambo, located at 303 km from Antananarivo, hosted an exchange workshop for Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) organized by WWF MWIOPO's capacity development program. The theme of the workshop was "partnership development and associative management." 39 people from 13 CBOs from the districts of Antanifotsy, Marolambo and Fandriana took part in this workshop.

The workshop featured very lively discussions and exchanges on the experiences of CBOs in terms of associative management, partnership and management of natural resources. These talks led to the development of strategies and future prospects, encouraging CBOs to take on the challenge of sustainable local development.

The village of Marolambo showed a strong interest for environmental action throughout the event. Radio shows delivered by CBO members and broadcast on local radio helped to deliver environmental messages to the population. Local authorities also expressed their readiness to support the CBOs for the establishment of environmental governance in their region.

## Youth event on meteorology and climate change

The Ministry of Meteorology organized a two day event for youth on the theme of meteorology and climate change adaptation from March 24th to 25th. The event brought together youth associations active in these fields and highlighted the importance of tying meteorology and the fight against climate change to essential sectors such as health, agriculture, access to drinking water and education.



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## New Projects

**Management of fisheries and poverty alleviation in the Ambaro Bay, 2014-2017.** As a result of the collaboration between BMZ and WWF-Germany, this project focuses on the preservation and the sustainable use of mangroves, within the Ambaro Bay ecosystem. The project focuses also on the sustainable increase of the incomes of local populations, without practicing illegal fishing and logging. For this, mangrove management groups will be better trained and equipped to lead regular patrols in mangrove forests and to control the fish unloading ports. 300 ha of mangroves will be replanted, more efficient charcoal production methods will be popularized, efficient stoves will be promoted and two climate stations in the project area will help improve local meteorological and climate change predictions.

**Support to Madagascar's civil society organizations 2014-2016.** In partnership with SIDA and WWF-Sweden, this project supports environmental CSOs and community based organizations in Madagascar's priority landscapes, in the northern part of the Mozambique Channel and in the Comoros islands, as well as the network of youth associations at national and regional levels. This is part of the capacity development and support to the mission of the civil society, in order to improve the living conditions of women (health, well-being, community participation), support to households livelihoods (income generating activities, savings, security), while reducing pressures on forest resources.

**Truly Global Fund.** The Truly Global Funds supports WWF MWIOPO in strategic priorities (landscape development, political commitment, etc.). The funding for WWF MWIOPO's Truly Global Fund for the fiscal year 2014 comes mainly from WWF-France, WWF-Sweden and WWF-Norway.

## New opportunities

**The spreading of Wood Energy saving cooking stoves in Southwest Madagascar is supported by AFD/ FISONG 2014.** More than 95% of the Malagasy population use wood energy for heating and cooking. But wood energy consumption is most significant in Toliara with the average use of 150 kg per person each year, while the national average is 100 kg per person. The project's objective is introduce 35,000 of the much more highly efficient Fatana Mitsitsy cook stoves into the Toliara market. This will allow each household to save at least 8% of its annual income and to protect the equivalent of 7,800 ha of spiny forests.

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50

years of conservation in Madagascar.

4

priority landscapes in Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean.



200

staff in Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean.

+500

more than 500 projects undertaken since 1963.

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To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature

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