



WWF

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WWF IN MADAGASCAR AND WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Hard to believe it's only been four months with MWIOPO! It has been a great start, thanks to the tremendous enthusiasm of the MWIOPO team and our partners both here in Madagascar and throughout our global network.



I have been able to visit terrestrial and marine programs in Toliara, and visit two other countries in our region – Mauritius and Seychelles.

We organized a very productive staff meeting for 150 of our staff from throughout the program to begin the process of moving toward a new strategic vision, where we looked critically at what have been set out as our priorities for the five years to come and discussed how we will need to approach this differently.

Plus, I have just returned from five very intensive weeks networking with the broader WWF family globally as well as a few current and potential partners.

So it's been a very productive first third of the year!

My recent trip started off with visits to the WWF-Switzerland office and the 50th anniversary celebration in Zurich – including a very inspiring and humbling speech by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and an inspiring al-phorn performance, among other highlights.

This was followed by a week of working meetings with the Program Office representatives around the world and the Annual Conference in St. Gallen, with the heads of all the offices and global initiatives.

I continued on for 2 weeks in the USA, where I was able to meet a wide range of administrative and program staff as well as other partners and potential partners, and finished off with a week at WWF International in Gland.

We have much to do, but the path is open before us to do great things!

Rick Hughes
Regional Representative

AERIAL SURVEILLANCE: A RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM TO DEFORESTATION

The moist, dry and thorny forests of Madagascar are among the richest places on Earth in terms of biodiversity.

These forests are an important source of income for local communities and are currently threatened by various forms of exploitation.

Slash and burn farming in particular is common, which almost inevitably leads to a destruction of the ecosystem and represents a serious threat to the future of the agricultural community.

It is prohibited by law throughout Madagascar and therefore, is prominent in remote areas in the absence of state authorities.

Through aerial surveillance with a light aircraft, WWF MWIOPO established a rapid response system to sites of deforestation in Protected Areas and slash and burn sites.

This system works with local communities, officers of National Parks and Forests, and gendarmery to execute this simple and inexpensive methodology which has already begun to flourish.

Hundreds of slash and burn sites have been located in New Protected Areas (NPA) and many patrols have identified those responsible.

On November 21st, 2010, the western part of the National Park Mikea was surveyed by air and proved the effectiveness of the aerial surveillance system.

Selective felling of trees to make canoes were photographed inside the park.

Photos and details sent to the Madagascar National Parks (MNP) revealed the location of the camp of offenders, and in consequence, they were arrested and transported by air-

craft and firearms were confiscated. This successful operation was made possible by the teamwork between air and ground intervention - without the close observations involved, these lawbreakers would have continued their slaughtering with impunity.

“We have launched aerial campaigns in the south-west.” said Xavier Vincke, chief of the project, “Overview”.

“Hundred of new sites of shifting cultivation have been located in the NPAs. Many patrols have been successfully organized, allowing us to investigate a long list of site owners of slash and burn agriculture in the NPA. We now need copies of applications of forest law so that aerial surveillance and patrol may prosper”.

Xavier Vincke
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POLITICAL CRISIS AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRAFFICKING

The day this article is written (June 9, 2011), the Malagasy political stakeholders just came back from the Gaborone (Botswana) meeting.

Roughly, the diverse political factions still maintained their positions and the ultimate decision regarding the roadmap for the transition was delayed for another session in Sandton (South Africa) on June 11th.

The SADC mediators want all parties to sign a consensual and inclusive roadmap. There are differences between the current transitional regime (HAT), and the opposition, who still request some modifications to the HAT roadmap and significant positions within the transition institutions.

The only point where everyone seems to agree, though there is no official declaration yet, is the comeback of the former President Didier Ratsiraka

to Madagascar.

The impoverished Malagasy people and the international community are waiting for a successful issue of these negotiations.

Meanwhile, the illicit exploitation and trade of natural resources (precious woods, tortoises, turtles, chameleons, etc...) is still going on in many parts of the island, including protected areas.

Last week, rosewood traffickers were caught in Masoala with more than 1000 logs. Three advisers of the “chefs de region” were incriminated in the process, and it is not the first time that high authorities or politicians are involved with natural resources trafficking.

On Monday, May 24th, the five Malagasy anti-corruption institutions (CSI-CPAC- BIANCO- SAMIFIN- Mediatrice) made a joint principle

declaration to coordinate their activities on Rule of Law (transparency and accountability) and Governance (fight against corruption).

The Minister of Environment and Forests, Herilanto Raveloarison, seems to be ready and starting to take the bull by its horns. Could we see an end to the illegal exploitation of Madagascar’s precious natural resources?

Questions undoubtedly remain as to how much authority he could exercise, especially if highly placed officials and politicians are involved, much less so-called ‘mafia barons’ with power and influence.

Let us wait and see.

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ANKOAY: WHITE-TAILED EAGLE OF MADAGASCAR, OSPREY, *HALIAEETUS VOCIFEROIDES*

The Ankoay is a diurnal, bird-of-prey endemic to Madagascar. It belongs to the family Accipitridae, which includes eagles, hawks, buzzards, hawks, vultures and kites.

It has a length of 70-80 cm, wingspan of up to 2 meters, and weighs up to 2.6 kg for males and 3.5 kg for females.

Due to its magnificent size, the Ankoay is ranked as the largest raptor on the Big Island.

Its population is very small and includes only 120 breeding pairs, or 240 mature individuals.

However, because young individuals travel frequently throughout the island, the total population size is difficult to estimate.

They are found in western countries - Morombe to the archipelagos of Nosy Hara, in estuaries, mangroves, sea islands and nearby lakes and rivers up to 100 km inland.

The Ankoay need large trees or cliffs near water which provide quiet and undisturbed environments for nesting and roosting.

Any disturbances within 100 m around the nesting sites result in the departure of the residing birds.

The Ankoay's breeding season is between May and October by way of polyandry, meaning that a female mates with several different males.

Each year, more than two eggs are laid but only one survives. The first to hatch acquires more food and becomes stronger than the second-born, resulting in siblicide in which the first-born kills or forces the second-born from the nest.

The Ankoay's main source of food is fish caught from the surface of the water (rather than capture by diving) and its diet consists mainly of fish such as tilapia and "fibata", and the occasional crab and young sea turtle.

The main threats to the survival of the Ankoay are the loss of feeding areas by deforestation, soil erosion and conversion of wetlands into rice fields and other direct competition with man for fish stocks, persecution by humans (stealing young chicks or hunting adult birds), accidental capture in fishing nets, and disturbances due to human activities near breeding sites.

The Ankoay is classified as being critically endangered (CR) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and is listed in Appendix II of CITES.

Several protected areas are now home to breeding couples of the Ankoay in places such as Ankarafantsika PN, PN Bay of Baly, PN Montagne d'Ambre PN Sahamalaza, Manambolomaty

Complex, and the complex of wetlands and the marine park of Mangoky Nosy Hara.

Inhabiting high priority habitats of Mangroves and Tsiribihina Manambolo, the Ankoay is the WWF's flagship species.

Through collaborations with The Peregrine Fund and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, WWF works to develop and implement a strategy for the conservation of this species, with particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in the protection of nesting sites, site management, hand feeding of fish stocks and the monitoring of natural habitats.

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TREASURE ISLAND: NEW BIODIVERSITY IN MADAGASCAR



WWF MWIOPO in collaboration with WWF International has launched the new Madagascar discoveries report *Treasure Island: New biodiversity in Madagascar*.

The report compiles findings made between 1999 -2010, showing the immense diversity of the natural wealth on the world's fourth largest island.

But it also offers one more dramatic reminder of the increasing threats.

Scientists in Madagascar discovered more than 615 species, including 41 mammals during that period but many of these exciting and colourful creatures are already endangered.

Berthe's Mouse Lemur, the world's smallest primate, and many other species are already endangered due to rapidly progressing environmental degradation, driven mainly by deforestation.

For WWF MWIOPO, the launch of this species report was an excellent opportunity to get massive media coverage and speak about our conservation efforts and the problems we are facing in our daily work.

Several high profile media such as National Geographic, BBC, The Guardian, Technology & Science as well as several news agencies have interviewed Rick Hughes and Nanie Ratsifandrihamana.

Several NO's inside the WWF Network have helped us by adapting the materials and sending press releases to their local media contacts.

Google found up to 150.000 articles 24 hours after the launch!

On the launch day, a press conference was organised in WWF's head quarter in Tana and journalists from all the main media houses were present thus resulting in a very satisfying media coverage in Madagascar, too .

And last but not least, this launch was a great opportunity to attract new visitors to our website www.wwf.mg.

To download the report:
www.wwf.mg/speciesreport.

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Microcebus Berthae



Furcifer Timoni (female)

PRIORITY LANDSCAPES: FOREST PROTECTION IN THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

WWF MWIOPO chose the Northern Highlands as one of its priority landscapes in intensifying its activities to save forests.

Located in the North of Madagascar within three Regions (Sava, Sofia and Diana), the Northern Highlands is a region with four contiguous retention and distribution drainage basins, at the heart of six to seven centers of local endemism.

Made up of reserves (Anjanaharibe-Sud, Manongarivo), parks (Marojeje et Tsaratanana), and corridors (Betaolana, Tsaratanana-Ambohimirahavavy), this landscape offers a wide range of altitudes (75m to 2400m) where countless ecological niches and a large variety of species flourish. This forest block presents favorable conditions for flux circulation between species but is under threat

by slash and burn farming, fires, unauthorized selective logging, and recently the expansion of small-scale illicit mineral extraction.

The presence of the WWF in the Marojeje-Tsaratanana-South Anjanaharibe triangle will ensure the state of this landscape is maintained and improved. This is aiming at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) from deforestation and forest degradation (REED), as well as improving civil society capacity in the follow-up of deforestation and enforcement. The WWF is also aiming at human development and protection of biodiversity through creation of protected areas, and by improving local communities' livelihoods. There are several approaches like transferring natural resources management and developing sustainable cultural practices

(irrigated rice farming, agroforestry, new cash crops ...), restoring degraded landscapes and energy-oriented reforestation.

Besides, WWF works hand in hand with the Environment and Forest Office to ensure law-enforcement in this landscape.

Besides festivities for World Environment Day, WWF also featured prominently in Bealanana for its reforestation-based activities and raising awareness against bushfires. In Vohémar, a conference debate was organized to raise awareness among stakeholders concerning climate change. Meanwhile, in Andapa, raising awareness on forest protection was reinforced by several broadcasting of environmental movies.

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TRANSFERRING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Everyone in Fiadanana and Ankari-noro showed up when the two local communities celebrated their newly acquired responsibility to manage their forest resources themselves.

Heads of administrative units as well as managers of technical organizations of the region Amoron'i Mania, mayors, forest authorities, WWF agents from Antananarivo and Fandriana, traditional leaders and of course the local population came in their numbers to attend the official ceremony.

Before any celebration could take place, traditional rituals were duly performed. Both the former governmental forest manager and the newly empowered community based forest management association had to request blessings from the village elders and the ancestors.

Several people thereafter held speeches after which contracts were

actually signed.

"This is a big day for these communities", says Appolinaire Razafimahatratra, head of project in Fandriana.

"It took two years of raising awareness in the villages, sustainable forest management training for resource users and paper work to get the official contract signed today.

We are all proud to be here and confident that with this community based management model, the course for a more sustainable future is set."

The Holistic Programme for Forest Conservation (HPFC) works on 5 different sites from Andapa in Madagascar's north to Fort Dauphin in the southeast.

The transfer of forest management to local communities is a key element in its conservation strategy.

"If you explain to people what hap-

pens if the forest disappears, if you empower them by giving them training and a perspective on how things can be done differently, they do get on board" says Maminiaina Rasamoelina, the Tana-based HPCF coordinator.

The new board members of the community based forest management association will still need WWF's support, at least over the two coming years.

"It's a 'learning by doing' approach" says Appolinaire Razafimahatratra, "and we reinforce their capacity to become sustainable resource users by working with them at eye-level.

As they go we detect problems and help them overcome those all while encouraging them for their efforts."

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FOREST ON THE MAHAFALY PLATEAU

The United Nations designated 2011 as the international year of the forest to emphasize the importance of forests.

For the WWF team on the Mahafaly plateau, it is an opportunity to celebrate with the local communities our efforts to support the restoration of our forest resources.

As the rainfall was slightly better than the previous years, every opportunity was good to plant trees and to educate the community on the importance of healthy forests, such as planting fruit trees in the compound of the Ejeda hospital at night to celebrate “earth hour”; restoration of the sacred forest of Sakoantovo (gift for the earth 2003); restoration of the Nisoa forest (Itampolo) by the association of grassroots communities; planting windbreak trees in many planting fields of farmers who are accompanied by our projects, and so on.

Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive secretary of the United Nations Conven-

tion for the Fight against Desertification observed that « if each one of us commits itself and ensures that one tree is planted in a degraded part of the arid areas and that the tree survives throughout the year, we can expect to have two billion trees in the arid areas by the end of this year”.

There are still several months before the end of the year, so we can pursue these efforts and make a difference in our arid areas.

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SISTER ISLANDS: FOR A GREATER SYNERGY AND COORDINATION

WWF MWIOPO is working to further strengthen its relationship with the sister islands of the western Indian Ocean as part of its regional mandate.

The Regional Strategy is paid by the Commission of the Indian Ocean, and although it is still currently under deliberation in the country, it would be a great leap forward in the unification

of the five island countries.

Under this mandate, a common vision and collective action plan could be effectively implemented to manage the pressures and threats to the marine and coastal biodiversity.

The initiatives that are under way include both island states and African

countries that seek proficient methods for greater synergy, coordination, and exchange of information.

In light of this, WWF MWIOPO is multiplying the discussions and sharing of information with partners, and is participating in regional seminars to broaden the communication and unite the involved entities of this mandate.

By these exchanges, it allows WWF MWIOPO to discover problems and challenges as well as recognize the enormous potential and important benefits that working together for a common vision brings.

Rémi Ratsimbazafy
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LAUNCH OF A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN



A retreat that took place in Antsaha, Antsirabe from April 11th-15th, 2011, marked the launch of the implementation of a new five-year strategic plan for WWF MWIOPO 2012-2016.

For the first time in ten years, the entire staff of the field and regional offices and headquarters gathered to celebrate the commencement of this project. Throughout the week, twelve teams composed of staff from across Madagascar worked on ten priority

habitats and priority species (turtles, tortoises and tuna) which would form the core of the future strategies and action plans. Clear visions and goals were set for each habitat and species by discussions of strategies and courses of action to be taken that were equally passionate and rich in variety of perspectives! The retreat also provided an equal opportunity for every staff member to become knowledgeable about administrative and financial procedures of the

WWF and the application of its code of ethics. Above all, the retreat allowed team members of the WWF MWIOPO to discover each other and be discovered by others - new connections were made and unsuspected talents were revealed! We now enter this new cycle of five years more motivated and invigorated than ever before!

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James Rabemananjara

An interactive exchange for experience sharing and to know better the realities and the needs of people from the field.



Haritiana Rajaonantoanina

A multidisciplinary workshop that gave an insight into the dynamics of the human resources and made an exciting and positive impression. Bravo!



Dina Razafinjatovo

A great opportunity to meet all the team members and to have constructive exchanges and agree together on common perspectives.

CLIMATE WITNESS: MOHAMED OUSSENE - 38, KOWE (MJIHARI)

I'm 38 years old and live in a small village on the west coast of Anjouan called Kowé.

I moved down here when I was 15, but I still farm up at Nkozini where our village was before because my fields are up there.

I grow cassava, taro, bananas and yams for me and my family to eat, but I also sell some.

I remember when I was young - until I was about twenty - farming was very different. If you owned 15 banana trees it was plenty because they

It used to be forest right up to the village, now people have cleared so many fields you have to walk quite a few kilometres before you get to the forest.

The forest itself has also changed – I remember when I was little and you walked in the forest it was very dark because the canopy was so dense.

Now you can't find forest like that, it's much more open.

When I was a child, my grandfather predicted that soon there wouldn't be

not cope.

The rain isn't good for our crops anymore, it just carries away our soil down to the sea.

If there is very heavy rain during the wet season, the river in the centre of the village bursts its banks and sometimes floods people's homes.

When we first moved down to the coast there were trees all along the shore. They've all disappeared now and the sea is much closer to the village.

I don't know if this has happened because the sea level has risen, or because of all the stones and sand we've taken from the beach to build houses. Either way, we are at the sea's mercy now, sometimes very high tides flood people's homes.

If there was a cyclone the village might disappear.

I don't know what my children will do for a living. I want them to learn a trade, but now children don't listen to their parents, they don't take advice. So maybe they will have to join me in the fields.

My grandfather's life was better than my father's, and my father's better than mine. I think my children will find it even harder.

I want my fields to provide for my children after I'm not around, so I'm working hard to improve them by stopping erosion and increasing soil fertility.

The [BCSF's Comoros project](#), is helping me learn new techniques and get the materials I need to do this.

Kitty Brayne
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produced enormous bunches of bananas. Now even if you have a thousand trees it's not enough. The trees produce tiny bunches because the soil is tired.

It's the same with the cassava and taro. When you harvest cassava you only find two or three tubers, whereas you used to dig up a whole bag's worth.

Life is difficult. I didn't go to school so I don't have any other work. We rely on agriculture, we don't have any choices.

many fish left. He said that this would make people nasty, that they would no longer be able to share with others because they would have so little.

I can see now that he was right – what he predicted is now the reality.

There used to be bad years and good years for agriculture depending on the weather, but now we just see that each year is worse than the last.

We're now very vulnerable, if there was a particularly bad year we would

SIX VOLUNTEERS OF THE EXPLORE PROGRAMME IN EJEDA

During two months, from February to April 2011, 6 volunteers from different parts of the world stayed in Ejeda, in the Mahafaly plateau, to assist in the project of support to the rational management of water.

This is the second time the project welcomes volunteers who always bring a new breathe to the project which is already in its fifth year of implementation.

The volunteers worked in pairs and were in charge of three different activities: environmental education,

coaching the water management committees, and the restoration of gallery forests. The experience was positive for both the volunteers and the project team.

The communities really appreciated the interest that these young people had not only for the natural resources but also for the population. The stay was a bit short but allowed, however, to initiate new ideas.

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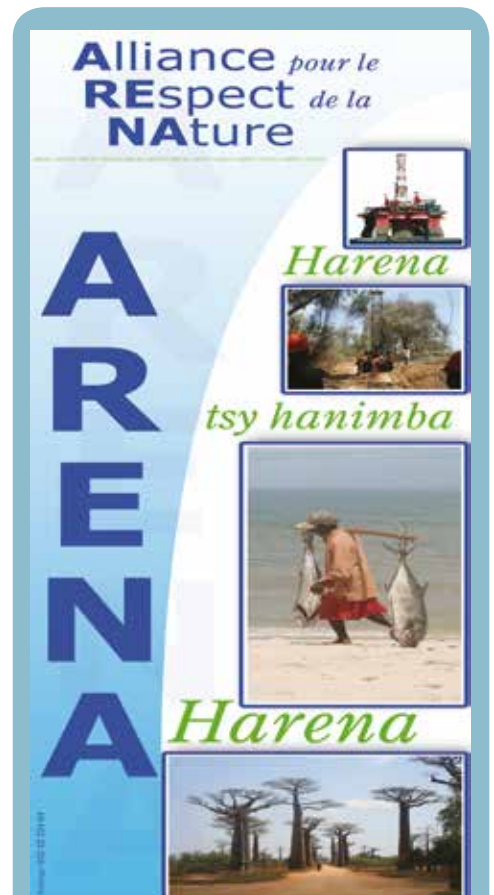
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ARENA

ARENA is an alliance formed by the six civil society partners of WWF MWIOPO's "Oil for Development".

Created in December 2010, ARENA is a network with a mandate to work more effectively in the sustainable management of oil resources, provide information monitoring to participate in decision-making processes and to become a key player in setting agreements between mining industries and the preservation of the environment.

Formalized on May 4th, 2011, ARENA works throughout Madagascar and more specifically, in Regions of Atsimo Andrefana, Melaky, and Boeny.

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Additional Support to “Sustaining Life”- Empowering Civil Society for Improved Livelihoods Effective Natural Resources Management in Madagascar**Donor :** SIDA via WWF-Sweden**Duration :** July 2011 to December 2012**Status :** Concept submitted

The project aims to establish a strong environmental civil society that strengthens the ability of the Malagasy population to address the challenges of environmental resources management and poverty alleviation in rural areas and contributes to the building of a more sustainable development.

Besides, additional activities will be implemented to ensure that more CBOS in the target landscapes have the ability to address the challenges of environmental resources management and poverty in rural areas.

“YES”: Youth Environmental clubs to mobilize children and communities toward sustainable development**Donor :** SIDA via WWF-Sweden**Duration :** July 2011 to December 2012**Status :** Concept submitted

The project purpose is to reinforce youth environmental clubs and their network so that they proactively influence and engage other out-of-school youth and community members in sustainable natural resources management and improved living conditions, thus meeting their development rights and needs.

Règlementation de la filière bois énergie dans le sud-ouest**Donor :** European Commission**Duration :** 1 year**Status :** concept submitted

This project will contribute to achieving sustainable management of fuelwood re-

sources in the South West of Madagascar, and this through the operationalization and financial servicing of the regional regulation of fuelwood in the communes on the outskirts of axis RN7 and RN9.

Combining Climate and Market smart agriculture with Protected Area Management by rural communities in the Northern Highlands**Donor :** WWF Switzerland**Duration :** 3 years**Status :** concept note submitted

The project aim to maintain the pristine state of the Northern through protected areas management and enhancing livelihoods of extremely poor rural communities through the production of highly valued products and by preventing emerging threats such as anthropogenic pressures and climate impacts.

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NOUVEAUX PROJETS

MG0951: Participatory research to support sustainable land management on the Mahafaly Plateau “SuLama”**Start date:** January 2011**Planned end date:** December 2015**Donor:** Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)**Summary:**

“SuLaMa” will link natural sciences with socio-economic and cultural approaches to facilitate the understanding and strengthening of ESS/ESF (Ecosystem Services/Ecosystem Functions) in a spatially explicit (from local to global) and temporal context. Along an agro-ecological transect from the sea to the Mahafaly Plateau in semi-arid South West Madagascar, the development of alternatives to non-sustainable land use practices will be achieved through participatory research, stakeholder dialogues and concerted capacity building, thereby strengthening existing efforts of sustainable development.

MG0952: Energy oriented community and individual reforestation in the South West region**Start date:** February 2011**Planned end date:** December 2011**Donor:** Fondation Tany Meva**Summary:**

Because of population growth and weaknesses in the management of forest resources, the consumption of charcoal has increased deforestation, especially surrounding the town of Toliara; the entire supply is provided by illegal productions from natural forests. The reforestation project which will be conducted will serve as an alternative and intends to slow down the logging of natural forests. The approach that will be taken addresses the issue of sustainable supply of fuelwood in the city of Toliara. To ensure the sustainability of the impacts and the project achievements, the approach takes into account the socio-organizational aspect for a good ownership of the actions by the involved groups, which have become project partners.

MG0953: Promoting Environmental Good Governance through building strong Environmental Civil Society Organization**Start date:** January 2011**Planned end date:** December 2013**Donor:** NORAD**Summary:**

The project aims at sustaining the management of natural resources in Madagascar while ensuring rights for local communities. It will address this issue by reinforcing the capacities of Environmental CSO (80 CBOs at local level and 3 CSO networks at regional level) so they become effective agents in managing natural resources and play important roles in environmental advocacy issues. This will impact in improving decisions regarding environmental management, enforcement of communities' rights and greater accountability of local and regional actors.

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RAKOTOMALALA RONDRO DOMOINA:

WWF and I? We have a long history...

Upon obtaining my Master's Degree in Animal Biology in 1998, I became a member of the Ecology Training Program (ETP) with WWF. Through the ETP, I gained many life and professional experiences that I now consider as foundations to success such as teamwork, organizational skills and the necessity to share experiences and knowledge with each other.

One could say that I am a product of WWF ... a product that has gradually evolved through my time working with and for WWF. Starting as a biologist (more specifically, a herpetologist - I am interested in reptiles and amphibians), I became a conservationist.

Currently, I am the coordinator of a participatory research project called Sulama within WWF Toliara, and it's like returning to my roots.

Why the South?

While I always loved animals, I was terrified of anything to do with lizards, chameleons, and snakes - caterpillars even scared me! It is true when people say that we are scared of what we do not know. At the University of Antananarivo where I studied, I plucked up my courage and became one of the first Malagasy female herpetologists. Now? I'm recognized as an expert on chameleons.

When the WWF decided to locate to the

south, I was a part of a team of researchers that was the first to explore the richness and potentiality of Ala Maiky for conservation.

Consequently, I stayed in the region and found that the South offers so much to deepen our knowledge and to gain experience from.

There are so many areas just waiting to be explored. In recent years, I have worked with Madagascar National Parks and taught at Fort Dauphin and Tulear.

Although I am a terrestrial biologist by training, I was even sought in the marine domain in the establishment of a marine park in the coast just south of Toliara.

This year, I obtained a certificate issued by the West Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) as a professional in the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPA)!

And there is sun all year round in the south - an added bonus.

What I love about my job?

As a manager of protected areas and natural resources, my team and I are constantly confronted with problems of the survival of rural communities and environmental degradation.

What do we do and how do we avoid injuring the communities that are affected by restrictions and regulations to access natural resources?

Science steps in to help answer these questions. I have the conviction that, "Science is a powerful tool that helps to better humanity."

I love discoveries: discoveries as simple as finding a source of clear water at the top of Andringitra, scientific discoveries like finding a new species of reptiles in the fragmented forests of Ambohijanahary, or fossils findings of pygmy hippos in the caves of Tsimanampetose.

Through our scientific expeditions, support missions and travelling, I've had the chance to discover the uniqueness and wealth of our country - a true treasure.

Not only do we work to protect nature, we also ensure that our conservation efforts are directly beneficial to local communities.

The people in rural communities have given me a perspective that is now more than just a conservationist point of view, and that is what I appreciate every day. I am always delighted to see the smiles of our research assistants, herdsman during paydays, and to see the rewarding progress of our guard's reading and writing.

My dream?

My 8 year old son loves pirates and treasure hunts, and I often say to myself: "What treasures will he find in the future? Sapphire? Gold?" No, the treasures at hand are our forests and our natural ecosystems.

True, we may not know the immediate economic value of our forests, but what they offer is numerous and priceless - clean air, places to play in, and the fauna and flora that represent our country.

My dream is that my son and our children will be able to enjoy the future of the treasure that we are proud owners of: our environment.

Therefore, to achieve this dream, we must work hard to preserve the Earth.

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WWF IN NUMBER

11

offices in Madagascar .

+ 200

staff members in Madagascar .

48

WWF MWIOPO started its activities in 1963 .

+ 50

projects .



Why we are here

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

www.wwf.mg

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