



NEWSBITES

Dear friends,

We have just had a particularly active quarter and our accomplishments during this period showcase the progress being made through innovative partnerships with local communities. We have tackled new challenges in Madagascar, working to improve energy access for people in rural villages and in large cities.



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The training of the first group of Malagasy women at the [Barefoot College](#) and the distribution of low consumption lamps in Antananarivo are two test-initiatives for which we have great hopes. Through these projects we hope to see villages able to supply their own electricity through solar energy and to start a rational consumption of electricity in large cities.

This past quarter also showcased the work of our marine program which helped to organize a series of discussions on marine topics during Maritime Days and also held the very first professional meeting on fisheries in the Menabe Region. These two events highlighted the challenges and opportunities of marine conservation, stressed the importance of the fisheries sector as an economic lever and the vital role of mangrove conservation, which is the foundation of the industry.

Finally, I hope you enjoy reading this edition and encourage you to take part in the [photo contest](#) dedicated to the celebration of Madagascar's biodiversity and to the work of grassroots communities. This competition is entitled, «Perspectives on the nature of Madagascar» and we want to celebrate your images and vision of this great island.

Rick Hughes

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8,000 tons of potential in the mangroves

Morondava, the capital of Menabe province, hosted a professional fisheries meeting from August 28th to 30th which explored the potential of responsible fishing in the mangrove environment.

“Fisheries can be an effective economic lever, particularly for Menabe,” says Dannick Randriamanantena, WWF’s mangroves project officer. “Madagascar’s 325,000 ha of Mangroves represent a potential of 7,500 to 8,000 tons of crabs per year.” Randriamanantena insists that there are many opportunities for fisheries by protecting mangroves in the region. “The conservation of mangroves as a transitional ecosystem between the marine and terrestrial regions has many environmental and also economic and social benefits.”

But this valuable resource is under threat according to Rémi Ratsimbazafy, WWF’s marine ecoregional leader. “The bordering communities live from the resources collected from the heart of these mangrove forests and the loss of the latter threatens the whole sector and the whole region.”

The meeting between fishermen, wholesale fish traders, collectors, private export companies, governmental authorities and **SmartFish** experts was very lively. “We know a lot about crab fisheries, we know that this activity can be very profitable, so we have come to get more information on the new fishing techniques to reduce our losses,” explains Tiandraza Mahavelo Francisca, a fisherman from Belo sur Tsiribihina.

The meeting allowed the fishermen to learn about and test new methods including enclosure ponds, conservation practices and transport options. “Using these new techniques can lead to a 25% reduction of losses during the collection and transport of the catch,” says Zbigniew Kasprzyk, a **SmartFish** Expert. This first professional meeting on fisheries was supported by WWF and the regional **SmartFish** programme funded by the **European Union** and implemented by the **Indian Ocean Commission** and the United Nations’s **Food and Agriculture Organization**.

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Nosy Hara bends under the Varatraza

Bemanjary, an elderly fisherman from Ampasindava, a traditional fishing village within the Nosy Hara marine protected area, says he can see the serious impacts of climate change on his region. “The Varatraza blows stronger and stronger and never stops. Sometimes we have to stay in the village for ten days, we can’t go fishing as there is too much wind. Before, the Varatraza would blow from June to August, but today, it seems that it won’t stop blowing,” says Bemanjary.

The impacts are being seen in the fishermen’s catches as well. “Our catches are very small: twenty years ago six men could fish 400 to 600 kg of fish in three hours,” says Bemanjary. “Today, the same number of men would only get 20 kg of fish.”

The protected areas of Nosy Hara and Ambodivahibe in Northern Madagascar are playing an important role in helping local communities face the consequences of climate change, explains Volanirina Ramahery, WWF MWIOPO’s Coordinator in the Diana Region. “The overall objective is to increase these two protected areas coastal ecosystems’ resilience in order to preserve the environmental goods and services for the local communities in view of the future climate conditions,” she says. “More precisely, it consists in establishing climate change adaptation strategies in these two marine protected areas. We therefore call on the collaboration of the communities and the various partners in the Diana Region, so that the local projects related to the coastal and land ecosystems may consider climate change adaptation aspects.”

Madagascar’s protected areas are able to stock 4 million tons of CO₂ each year, a capacity which is gained and consolidated thanks to environmental protection. It is a relatively efficient way to mitigate the effects of climate change. The WWF and the [European Union](#) have operated as partners on the marine protected area projects of Nosy Hara and Ambodivahibe, part of the Diana Region, for four years and the project is now in its final phase.

Madagascar has a great chance to benefit from developing protected areas. WWF and the [European Union](#) hope to achieve this vision and that the marine and coastal protected areas will help local areas with climate change adaptation.



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Low Energy Light Bulbs

WWF MWIOPO will be distributing 540,000 low energy light bulbs to households across Antananarivo during the last quarter of 2013.

The CFL bulbs will enable households to reduce their electricity bills by 14% each month, saving families money and helping to conserve the city's electricity supply.



Maritime days

A series of conferences dubbed 'Maritime Days' were held from the 18th to 20th of September in Antananarivo.

The conferences dealt with a variety of topics including, small scale fishing, management of marine protected areas and marine natural resources, holothuriculture and seaweed farming.



Fiberglass Canoes!

Locally-made fiberglass canoes are leading a revolution in the Menabe fishing trade and also helping to save a rare tree species.

These little wonders, built by students at the technical high school in Morondava, are replacing traditional canoes made from the «farafasy» or *Givotia madagascariensis* tree, a rare and declining species in the region.

The high school's shipbuilding department is one of the first initiators of this training in Madagascar, thanks to a partnership with WWF. "These Fiberglass canoes are an important alternative, with regard to deforestation," explains Roger, the school headmaster. "Fishermen generally use «farafasy» to build their own canoes, but this wood is disappearing very quickly today, as it is subject to collective logging."

"Since 2013, our shipbuilding department could resume the training in partnership with WWF," explains Roger. "Our students, supervised by their teachers, could work on the building of ten fiberglass canoes as well as a big outrigger boat." 80 out of the 150 students registered in this shipbuilding department are specializing in the building of boats, speedboats, canoes and dhows/traditional wooden boats.

New opportunities

Enhancing poverty alleviation through effective MPA and fisheries management in the Mozambique Channel area

Donor: KFW - Status : Concept submitted to donor via [WWF Germany](#)

Summary: About 60 million people live in the Western Indian Ocean's coastal zone, of which approximately 25% reside in the area referred to as the Northern Mozambique Channel (UNEP/ Nairobi Convention Secretariat, 2009). This number is expected to double by 2030. Many of these people are directly dependent upon the natural resources in the region for their survival and livelihoods. However the ecosystems, the services they provide and the resources within them are already under significant pressure from human activities that are causing habitat degradation, pollution and over-exploitation of resources.

The economic as well as strategic relevance of the Mozambique Channel is and will be mainly augmented by two key external drivers: (i) the current and upcoming exploitation of globally important oil and gas reserves, including associated shipping operations; (ii) the demand for fisheries resources, both for export and to feed the growing local population. There is a need therefore for the regional stakeholders to ensure sound governance and management of ecosystem goods and services including conservation and marine spatial planning to effectively fight poverty. The Mozambique Channel is a key geo-strategic place for the planet and is a highly solicited area that deserves a special attention and significant resources for it to be able to effectively sustain the development of the bordering nations.

SIDA application 2014-2016

Submitted by: WWF Sweden to [SIDA](#)

Donor: [SIDA](#) - Status : Proposal submitted to donor

Summary: This application stretches over three years from 2014-2016 as a continuation of the current Framework Agreement (2010-2013) between WWF and [SIDA](#).

This programme document and its content have been developed through a consultative and participatory process where regions and initiatives have chosen to be part of the programme. Their strategies and objectives are aligned with the goals of the CivSam strategy and policy as well as the overall objectives of WWF Sweden. All of the regional programme interventions have previously been working with civil society partners as part of their strategies, either with support from Sida or other organisations.

Building resilient coastal communities and ecosystems as a means for poverty alleviation in Amber seascape in North Western of Madagascar

Donor: BMZ - Status : Concept accepted by donor, proposal to be submitted by [WWF Germany](#) to BMZ this October 2013

Summary: If not adequately anticipated, climate change and climate variability have the potential of negating all development and conservation initiatives in coastal and marine areas, especially in a poor and vulnerable country like Madagascar. This project aims to enhance the resilience of the mangroves of Ambaro Bay and the health and wellbeing of the communities who depend on them for their survival. To achieve this, WWF and its partners will use the findings of a climate change vulnerability assessment for four villages (10,600 inhabitants) in the Ambaro Bay to inform and guide the following concrete actions: (1) reforest 300 hectares of mangroves; (2) improve economic and social conditions for the poor and vulnerable groups in these communities through promoting sustainable livelihoods; (3)revitalize existing community-based mangrove management systems through the establishment of better governance; (4) develop environmentally sound and economically profitable crab fisheries; and (5) mitigate the ever increasing demands for mangrove wood with the dissemination of energy-efficient cooking stoves and charcoal ovens.



Barefoot College

The **seven grandmothers** WWF sent to the **Barefoot College** in India to have successfully completed their training in solar electricity and returned home.

They are now ready to install, manage and maintain solar systems in their villages of Tsaratanana and Iavomanitra. This project will allow these areas to benefit from renewable energy sources and reduce pressure on forest resources.



Photo contest - deadline on the 21st

On the occasion of its fifty years of conservation in Madagascar, WWF has launched a contest to capture the best photos across six categories, all on the theme of biodiversity. The contest closes on October 21st, so get your entries in now! Further information can be found at http://www.wwf.mg/aboutus/photo_contest/.



Farewell Martina. Welcome A.G.

After four years of service to WWF, Martina Lippuner has decided to move on to new challenges. Replacing her as Communications Manager is A.G. Klei.

Martina first came to WWF as a volunteer in the Explore! program before joining our communications department. We wish her all the best and welcome A.G. to our team.

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50

50 years of conservation mission in Madagascar

10

10 priority landscapes in Madagascar & Western Indian Ocean

200

200 staff in Madagascar & Western Indian Ocean

46

46 projects in Madagascar & Western Indian Ocean



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