



WWF

NEWSLETTER

MWIOPO

OCTOBER

2011



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# NEWSBITES

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The more I learn, and particularly see work on the ground, the more I am impressed with our team's capacity and dedication. I've tried to keep up with my commitments to the team to visit our staff in the field. Within Madagascar, I have had tremendous opportunities to visit many more of our staff and work in the field: Andapa, Midongy, Vondrozo, Farafangana, Fianarantsoa, Ivohibe, Ampahiny, and Tolañaro (Ft. Dauphin). This quarter I also made a return visit to Seychelles, to advance our Tuna work in conjunction with three key Global Initiatives: Coastal East Africa, Smart Fishing and Market Transformation. At the same time, I've also been engaged with the Global WWF network, and working to develop relations and systems that will provide us more strategic and cohesive support in the future. In the course of all this, I am looking to learn from other environmental organizations and partners, seeking areas where we can improve our collaborations and strengthen what we are doing and how we are doing it.

We've challenged our team to move forward aggressively with the new strategic plan, focusing on the prioritized land and seascapes, challenging them to develop current situation analysis and cohesive landscape-level plans. This is asking them to find the time and resources to do extra work, but it is essential to reinforce the initial kick-off of the new strategic plan, begun in Antsaha in April, and to continue to move forward with the necessary "culture shift" from a project/program-driven paradigm to a results-based focus at the landscape-level.

In Madagascar, support from and advocacy from environmental stakeholders and civil society organizations is paying off with significant gains, despite the political situation. During the past fiscal year, the government conveyed some level of protected status to over 5 million additional hectares of terrestrial and marine area, which more than doubles the area that was previously protected. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has shown increased engagement on both illegal logging and illegal animal trade. Existing precious wood stocks are being identified and a strategy for handling those is being developed. Working with civil society, the Minister has brought together key government and civil society actors to raise animal trafficking issues in key geographic areas. The number of recent seizures of tortoises, and effective prosecutions, is evidence of this increased engagement paying off.

So, hats off to the team and keep up the good work!

Rick Hughes



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## TOWARDS BETTER LEADERSHIP OF MEF

**Since the beginning of the current political crisis (January 2009), the Environment administration has been seriously altered by the anarchy there, as major assistance programs were being suspended (SWaP, REED, World Bank, KFW, GIZ, USAID, etc.) and the State contribution withdrawn.**

For various reasons (political, financial, and other), the succeeding regimes authorized exceptionally, but “illegally”, exploitation and exportation of natural resources for particular individuals or firms. Thus the deteriorating climate, with various and unprecedented trafficking and illegal exploitation resurging (precious wood, tortoise, lemur, crocodile, shark, etc.) virtually over the whole country, and this has become very difficult to curb.

The rising of the Minister General Herilanto Raveloarison as head of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MEF) in June 2010 seemingly brings back normalcy in the working climate there. Indeed, the Minister, as a trained lawyer and governance technician, appears to stay firm on his convictions and his attributes, despite the cacophony resulting from the hazardous times of this political crisis. As a good leader, he succeeded in working and convincing fellows and seniors to endorse various decisions reaffirming strong political will from leaders to restore the degrading situation of the Environment and Forests in Madagascar. Meanwhile, he endeavored to open dialog and mobilize directly or informally with FTS (Financial and Technical Stakeholders) and the Malagasy civil society through direct interviews or organizing informative days on various matters pertaining to governance in this sector.

Here are some facts illustrating this commitment

### I. Raising awareness on the green book

By the end of 2010, the Ministry developed a practical guidebook mainly meant for local authorities to help these take back responsibility (after the squandering seen at the beginning of the crisis) and facilitate citizen commitment toward Environment. Thus, various districts and counties have endeavored to revive the Dina and committees fighting against fires at their local level. The Melaky region features prominently as a good adept of this new momentum.

### II. Securing Madagascar Protected Areas System

A Mines-Forests decree signed by nine HAT ministers (Decree 52005/2010), was promulgated on December 20, 2010 pursuant to a renewable two year temporary protection of Madagascar protected sites. This regulation preserves 3.2 million hectares of potential protected areas in Madagascar from any access for exploration or exploitation, principally in relation to extractive activities. This measure is part of the Madagascar Protected Areas System (SAPM) framework initiated since the 2003 Durban vision, currently comprising 8.3 million hectares within protective status, about 14% of the national territory.

### III. Dismantling of the precious wood mafia

Despite the issuance of the 2010-141 decree forbidding felling, transportation and export of precious wood since March 2010, the chaotic situation caused exploitation to spread to various places in Madagascar. The administration has endeavored to intercept lawbreakers be it in Madagascar (SAVA-DIANA-ANDROY\_etc.) or in neighboring islands (Comoros and Mauritius). Dozens of individuals, including officials and parliamentarians, have been arrested and, to better tackle the problem, the Minister could convince the HAT president to make a public address stressing commitment against precious wood trafficking, to issue an order concerning the repression of precious-wood-related infractions (rose wood, ebony wood) and to strongly involve the Ministry of Justice in the dismantling of the mafia network. Currently, the whole supply, normally illegal, of precious wood in the country is being documented and consensual



decisions will be taken concerning sanctions and valorization of such products for good governance in this sector and to benefit the country.

#### IV. Facilitating exceptional funding for preservation of protected sites

Despite the suspension of assistance from bilateral and multilateral financial partners for development and environment, NGOs, national and international CSOs (CI-WSC-WWF) under the umbrella of CCPTFE are putting their best efforts to assist the transition government in implementing important and urgent environmental governance and actions. They also succeeded in convincing some multilateral fund donors (World Bank and UNESCO) to assist Madagascar in order to preserve the achievements of 20 years of environmental programs. Although such additional funding cannot be used by, nor transit through the government because of the crisis, availability of such funds has been greatly facilitated by the approval of the Minister and his commitment to establish good environmental governance in Madagascar.

#### V. Collaborative action plans to clean up tortoise sector

Although five Malagasy tortoise species are currently in critical danger of extinction, local consumption and illicit export have been favored by anarchy and resurgence of corruption resulting from the crisis. The most endangered species are the ploughshare tortoise (Angonoky or *Astrochelys yniphora*) with only 400 individuals remaining in their natural habitat (Baly bay) and the radiated tortoise (Sokake ou *Astrochelys radiata*) with 45,000 individuals being sold yearly. The Minister could mobilize stakeholders (Governance Ministries-FTP-CSO-Authorities and regional and national platforms) in order to reinforce the “official” action plans pertaining to the preservation of tortoises during the September 8 and 9, 2011 colloquy in Mahajanga. Such activities will routinely be carried out in the South-West. “Preserving tortoises in their natural habitats”: this the new motto of stakeholders as they stand more committed than ever in their struggle.



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## MENABE: FESTIVAL OF MANGROVES HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN

**Mangroves are highly rich ecosystems that extremely important yet often go unnoticed. In Menabe, where there are approximately 3500 ha of mangroves, conservation of their habitat has led to regional decision-making.**

From July 28th-30th, 2011, the festival “Ala Honko”, Festival of Mangroves, was celebrated in Belo Tsiribihina (Menabe). It was co-organized by WWF MWIOPO and the Ministry of Environment. The theme of the festival this year was “The mangroves in the service of Man”, translated to, “Ala Honko Manasoa Anao”.

In this region of the Manambolo Tsiribihina and where fishing is the primary activity of local communities, mangroves provide ideal habitats for fish stocks such as shrimp, shellfish, and fish. They also provide firewood for households.

During this celebration, some 3500 people helped plant propagules on a 2 ha site. Another planting was done near the Ambrondrolava village where WWF works alongside the association called Mamelon Honko.

WWF and its partners share a common vision to establish a regional map of mangroves to help locate catering areas and areas of vulnerability. This festival helped to unite and educate the beneficiaries and users of the mangroves and hopefully served to foster this common vision among others.

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## THE GREEN, BILLOWING CARPETS SUSPENDED IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

**The seagrass community of the Saya de Malha Banks represents the world’s largest seagrass meadow covering much of the over 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> area of the Banks in the open ocean.**

Completely detached from land boundaries, these narrow underwater shoals with depths from 8 to 150 meters provide an ecologically important oasis of high productivity rising from the deep waters of the tropical and nutrient-poor Western Indian Ocean. As the Banks are surrounded by fairly sharp drop-offs up to 2000m, deep, cold and nutrient rich waters are forced to the surface fueling the elevated productivity of the area. As universally known, seagrass beds serve as a shelter for different species, nursery grounds especially for fish and crustaceans, feeding grounds for some fish and an important food source for herbivorous invertebrates, fish and green turtles.

The seagrass meadows of the Saya de Malha Banks have much in common with rain forest which is hot spots for biodiversity, provides important and valuable ecosystem functions including a large carbon sink capacity. Its unique conditions and remoteness from direct sources of anthropogenic stress make them a crucial reservoir for the maintenance of biodiversity in the surrounding islands and coastal areas.

That is one of the reasons why WWF MWIOPO designated Saya de Malha Banks as a priority seascape of global outstanding. The Saya de Malha Banks are also part of the 10 High Seas Gems: Hidden Treasures of Our Blue Earth of the IUCN-WCPA.

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## WORKING TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABILITY OF BIOFUELS

**With the support of WWF and UNDP funding in the development of sustainable production of biofuels in Madagascar, a national platform called Platform Sustainable Biofuels (PAD) was established.**

This platform includes different actors who are involved in the development of the bio-fuel sector. Important actors include farmers' organizations that represent civil society, environmental NGOs that support rural development, government representatives who are upstream and downstream of the sector, operators who represent the private sector, and suppliers and distributors of biofuels. Technical and financial partners will also provide support and expertise in their respective fields. The Technical Secretariat is currently provided by WWF.

The main mission of PAD is to promote sustainable production of biofuels. Therefore, in late July 2011, the CSA decided to launch a strategic study on the development of the biofuel industry in Madagascar. This initiative was prompted by the lack of evidence to position the development in sector (?). The study began with an initial phase, which is the current status of the biofuel industry in Madagascar.

In addition to funding by the UNDP, WWF-Norway has supported the work of the CSA in its development of a policy framework - a policy and regulatory outline that should be used to govern the biofuel industry in Madagascar. In light of the developments in this sector, the CSA has developed a proposal for an intermediate regulatory framework which would allow for a coordinated sector through the establishment of interdepartmental committees. Furthermore, the CSA has proposed regulation arrangements pending final decisions of policies and regulations.

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## MONITORING THE SOUTHERN TOLIARA CORAL REEF SYSTEM

**Since 2005, WWF MWIOP has been working for the conservation of the southern Toliara coral reef system which is among the largest in the West Indian Ocean.**

Since 2007, a project funded by NORAD and WWF Norway has been working towards the implementation of a lineage-based marine resources management in four pilot sites. This year, a reef survey in pilot and control sites is to be undertaken to check the efficiency of the resources and habitat management. As the project financial resources are limited, the project staff decided to work with volunteers.

Eirik Lindebjerg, from Norway, is among the three volunteers chosen to help with this activity. He has shared with us his thoughts: "The underwater world south of Toliara is a beautiful one. Rich in fishes and corals, it is a diver's paradise. Butterfly fishes fly around and hordes of soldier fishes pass by in the amazingly colored coral environment. On the surface, a couple of pirogues search for today's catch. Although the living standards of Norwegian and Vezo fishermen are completely different, we have one important thing in common: life with the sea.

I am back after a long day of diving, with a slate full of data and a mind full of impressions. In all of this, my job is to register corals. At first glance, all the corals looked the same but weeks of intense training helped me gain the knowledge and confidence to perform the challenging task of identifying them underwater". Conserving the reef system and managing wisely fisheries resources will secure the livelihoods of thousands of local fishermen whose cultural identity is strongly linked to the sea.

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## REVOLVING FUNDS TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S GROUPS

**Collaborations between AICPM (Plateau Mahafaly Intercommunal Association) and WWF anticipate a promising future in building strategies for natural resource conservation in the Southwest.**

The AICPM is an organization that brings together representatives of fifteen Commons Plateau Mahafaly in southwest Madagascar. The AICPM was identified as a key partner for the sustainability of conservation efforts in this region. This decision was based on their commitment to the conservation of marine and forest ecosystems, management of natural resources, and the constant search for the well-being and growth of social, economic, and cultural needs of the local population.

One aspect of this partnership is the cooperative management of funds made available to the seven WWF associations that unite literate women in the town of Beahitse in the District of Ampanihy. This fund, whose monitoring has been entrusted to the associations of AICPM, allows women to develop income-generating activities to fund their conservation efforts and socio-economic development. This company also aims to strengthen the financial capacity of river-side communities in natural resource conservation sites that are in danger of deterioration by slash and burn agriculture and the exploitation of charcoal.

Support for other income generating activities such as poultry farming is another alternative solution. Granted as a no-interest loan that is repayable to AICPM, this fund will later be made available to other environmental actors in the Plateau Mahafaly region in the spirit of solidarity and mutual development of the entire local population.

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### IRINA RANDRIANTINA: «YES, I BELIEVE IN CLEAN DEVELOPMENT»

**Initially trained to collaborate with polluters, life led me to a more brighter and greener side of things.**

I worked with two different worlds which allowed me to take a step back and realize what was important.

Today, I believe in clean development and environmentally responsible practices. I am aware of the difficulties we face but I remain convinced that these obstacles can be overcome. In the words of Georges Bernanos, "We do not experience the future, we make it."

I studied engineering in the food industry and my life revolved around labs and factories. Industrial engineering, biochemistry, biotechnology, microbiology.. I excelled in this "kitchen science". I loved what I did but felt I had to expand my horizons.

In 2008, my career led me to a DEA training in Forestry, Environment and Development. I did an internship with WWF working on the Environmental Impact Assessment of Biofuels. New yet familiar, I quickly associated with this field and began to realize what I was missing in my life. I learned how to locate critical areas that could cause the most damage to the environment. I also became interested in going beyond the financial aspect of things. To integrate these two ideas, I had to learn about new aspects of the job such social issues in the areas involved. I then discovered a sensitivity to the environment, and by the end of the internship, I focused on determining relationships between ecology and chemical components of herbal medicines and cosmetics.

Working with WWF, I discovered an exceptionally stimulating and exciting team. They inspired me and their enthusiasm was infectious. My career choices, training, and working with this team all gave me a new meaning to my journey. Today, I know that an independent business is a winning business. Trying to convince skeptics that we have everything to gain by adopting more responsible practices is my daily struggle. I am my best evidence of this belief: I was in their camp. But not anymore.

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## DISTRIBUTION OF ENERGY-SAVING LAMPS (ESL) : WORKING TOWARDS AN EFFICIENT LIGHTING OF HOUSEHOLDS AND CONTRIBUTING TO A DECREASE IN CARBON EMISSION

ESLs can save up to 75% of energy compared to incandescent lamps. In Madagascar, 40% of electricity is provided by central groups based on thermal oil or gas oil.

Thermal power plants increase the cost of electricity production and cause high carbon dioxide emissions which contribute to global warming.

The Energy Vision of WWF (which aims for 100% renewable energy by the year 2050) promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency for a socio-economic development of low carbon emissions. Under the Energy Vision, an initiative is currently being prepared to accelerate the implementation of ESLs as well as promoting good quality ESLs in the market at affordable prices.

By replacing 600,000 incandescent lamps with fluorescent lamps, it is estimated that the maximum electric power of 19 MW can be reduced and that the emission of 19,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year can be prevented during the lifetime of a single lamp.

Three partners: JIRAMA, Ministry of Energy, and TELMA Foundation, have joined WWF in the implementation of a large-scale campaign to distribute lamps. An operation will be conducted in the city of Ambositra to distribute 6100 ESLs.

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## YOUTH UNITED BY VINTSY

To strengthen the role of youth in environmental issues, WWF initiated the integration of the thirteen chapters of Club Vintsy of Higher Education.

This network, called “United by Vintsy”, was officially created with the aim to strengthen the contribution of youth in sustainable development through environmental initiatives and activities. This network includes more than 600 students from different academic backgrounds and from several universities and public and private colleges located throughout the island. The students are volunteers who are committed to becoming more environmentally responsible for a better future. “Together in Diversity” is the motto of this year’s group. According to the President of “United by Vintsy”, Tafiti Tojoso, “The network is strength in a diversity of cultures, skills, and know-how of its members, as well as the multitude of environmental contexts in which each club operates.”

The networks aims to enhance the diversity and cooperative efforts to fight against environmental degradation through (i) raising awareness to children, youth, and the public about environmental issues and (ii) the adoption and application of environmentally friendly activities on local and national levels.

“United by Vintsy” has broadened its influence by allowing various beneficial partnerships to develop, which has helped in motivating and exploring the potential of youth. The partnerships will also further strengthen their capabilities and commitment to act as responsible citizens of the future of our environment.

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## CLIMATE WITNESS

My name is Mbola Vakisoa and I am 46 years old. I have four children; 3 girls and one boy. I am married according to customs. We live in Bekiria-Centre, in the Anosy region, in the South of Madagascar. I am both a farmer and a cart manufacturer.

My father died in 1987 so I had to stop studying. He was a farmer, just like his father, and his grandfather. My father wanted to study, when he was young, but his father made him look after the zebus. Therefore, my father sent me to school so as I could do what he had dreamed of doing himself. But now, I have forgotten it all.

When my father was young, the rainy season was good: there was sufficient water and the Mandrare flowed without any interruption. There were food shortages but only every ten years. The forest was dense and undamaged. Now it is destroyed and the rain has decreased by more than half. The whole year has become a dry and hot season.

People don't respect customs any more. They raise pigs and don't sacrifice zebus any more even though this tradition worked very well.

If this drought continues, I am very afraid for my future as a farmer. The Mandrare now runs dry in October and November. I provide for the needs of 11 people. What will happen to them? My children will become impoverished. Nature is life. Plants help us to breathe and I use them for everything: health, food and to maintain the cattle. I love the zebus and goats: they represent wealth and security.

Life has become very difficult for me. Market gardening is my adaptation plan but that's just a way not to die of hunger. The rain culture is no longer appropriate. God is so annoyed with humans that I can no longer count on him.

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## STRATEGY TO AVERT EXTINCTION OF THE *FURCIFER BELALANDAENSIS* CHAMELEON IN THE WILD

**A workshop was organized from March 8 to March 9, 2011 in Toliara for implementing the *furcifer belalandaensis* species conservation strategy.**

The Belalanda chameleon, also known by its scientific name (*Furcifer belalandaensis*) is an endemic species in three villages of the South-West of Madagascar (Belalanda, Sakabera et Antanambao-Belitsake). This species is considered the most endangered vertebrate due to its much localized distribution, the very low size of its populations and habitat loss resulting from entropic activity. Before the workshop, fieldwork allowed participants to see the species and the sites condition.

During this workshop, 1 vision, 5 goals and 14 target goals, 8 objectives and 13 target objectives, have been defined in order to achieve these goals, as well as 48 actions to undertake in order to achieve these objectives. Besides, the status of the Belalanda chameleon has been reviewed too. This strategic plan will be implemented during the five coming years from 2012 to 2016 and will be assessed twice.

The species conservation strategy has been worked out following the IUCN guidelines: Strategic Planning for Species Conservation: A Handbook The Species Conservation Planning Task Force Species Survival Commission, IUCN Version 1.0 (IUCN/SSC 2008). It has been designed to avert extinction of a species in the wild and should be worked out and implemented by all stakeholders involved.

The workshop took place thanks to the contribution of local and regional authorities, representatives of the Ministry of Forests and Environment, the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, the Chameleon Specialist Group of the IUCN/SSC, teams from World Wildlife Fund of Toliara and Madagasikara Voakajy, and was funded by Darwin Initiative, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and WWF.

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## NEW PROJECTS

### **MG0954: Clubs Vintsy en réseau préservant le Corridor Forestier Sud-Est**

Start date: January 2011

Planned end date: December 2013

Donor: FFEM

Summary:

The project aims to support the establishment and formalization of the Network of Environmental Clubs Vintsy established in the Southern East parts of the rainforest Corridor of Madagascar in order to implement a youth movement for the environment and sustainable development. By engaging members towards a common vision, providing a forum for mutual support, networking would ensure the sustainability of clubs Vintsy. This network would provide a space for sharing and learning for youth and transform students to become more committed to preserve the biodiversity and enhance natural and cultural heritage of their region. The dynamism and potential of the youth networking strengthen conservation activities conducted within the communities and will break the geographical and intellectual isolation of the local population to access development opportunities.

### **MG0955: Improved Livelihoods through Solar-powered Desalinization of Ground Water in the Villages along the Coast of South-western Madagascar**

Start date: Juillet 2011

Planned end date: Juin 2012

Donor: WWF-Switzerland

Summary:

The project's purpose is to install at least two solar-powered ground water desalinization units along the south-western coast of Madagascar where there is a lot of sun and a severe lack of clean water, in close partnership with local and Swiss actors. Long-term operations by villagers with re-financing models will be developed for quality insurance and sustainability. Focus is on building local capacity to maintain and self-finance the solar-powered ground water desalinization units, as well as on promoting solar power, this renewable energy source - accessible and viable in the region.

## NEW PROJECTS

### Réglementation de la filière bois énergie dans le sud ouest de Madagascar

Donor : European Commission

Duration : 1 year

Status : concept submitted

This project will contribute to achieving sustainable management of fuelwood resources 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.

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## NEW OPPORTUNITIES

### Holistic Programme for Forest Conservation - Phase II

Donor : Good planet

Duration : 3 years

Status : Concept submitted

During a second phase (2012 – 2015), this project aims to strengthen and sustain the achievements of the first phase which consist in :

- ☑ The contribution to the creation of New Protected Areas in association with local communities so as to contribute to the Malagasy Government Challenge for increasing the Protected Areas to six million hectares by 2012, and to the sustainable management of natural resources through Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM).
- ☑ The establishment of database to cope with Climate Change and attenuating the vulnerabilities of the two Ecoregions (moist and dry forests) followed by activities of forest landscape restoration and reforestation to compensate for Co2 emissions.

### Supporting Effective Management of the Tsimanampetsotse and Kirindy-Mitea National Parks

Donor : BMZ FiT

Duration : 3 years

Status : Concept submitted

The project will provide continued but progressively phased out support and coaching to Madagascar National Park teams in the implementation of the management systems and tools in order to set the parks on to a sustainable path.

### Conserving the Madagascar fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*) of the Tsiribihina and Manambolo mangroves

Donor : IUCN – World Bank - GEF

Duration : 1 year

Status : concept submitted

Conservation of Madagascar fish-eagle which is among the seven most endangered birds of prey in the world, in the Tsiribihina and Manambolo mangroves landscape through management plan that empowers the community to be the champions for the conservation of Madagascar Fish-Eagle.

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## MEDIA: GRAND OPENING OF the Press Center in Antsakaviro

The press center of Malagasy opened its doors in the offices of WWF Antsakaviro in July 2011. It is a collaborative effort of WWF Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean, the French and American embassies, UNDP, and the World Bank. Together, they dedicated a budget of 200,000 euros for this project. Utilized as a meeting platform for media professionals, journalists, and academics, the media center is also a place for training and documentation available to the general public. Since its opening, several activities such as workshops, training groups, and meetings have already been hosted.

“The center of news media contributes to the emergence of credible, transparent, and efficient Malagasy media that is based on knowledge and research,” says Richard Hughes, Regional Representative of WWF MWIOPO. For this reason, the press center offers its members a meeting place, accessible computer equipment, references, and various multimedia tools.

Eventually, the center will be legally and financially independent. It will serve to support initiatives pertaining to journalism, media, and communications with the aim to improve the diversity and quality of local and national productions.

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## “CONSERVANCIES” IN NAMIBIA - AN EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (CMNR)

**At its annual conference in 2009, WWF International adopted a policy on poverty and conservation.**

WWF programs in Africa and Madagascar are committed to actively implementing this policy as well as facing major problems of the continent. Among the strategies identified, the predominant plan of action is community management of natural resources, which is already implemented in various projects and programs of WWF. This is effective as it combines both conservation objectives and local development. Namibia is currently considered as an exemplary CMNR in Africa and therefore, a training session was organized in July 2011 to share their lessons and experiences to aid others to follow in their footsteps. Those who attended were: the Conservancy, teams of WWF CARPO (Central Africa Regional Program: Cameroon, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Africa), the WAMER (West African Marine Ecoregion: Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde, Mauritania, Guinea-Conakry and Guinea Bissau) and Madagascar.

The Conservancy is a conservation concession of communal land as well as private land. The CMNR concept associated with the Conservancy was the result of a long learning process that involved many stakeholders such as the government, local authorities, support agencies, research institutions and training, civil society, private sector/investors, and local communities. They helped build the groundwork necessary for the formal changes of the CMNR; thereby implementing a devolution of power to local communities which implied a legal framework of Namibia to meet requirements of resource management and tangible economic benefits.

Namibians had more than fifteen years after the reform and adoption of the law of nature conservation in 1996 to transfer rights, authority, and ownerships of lands and resources back to local communities. In addition to acceptance by community members, the granting of the title Conservancy is a long process that requires several conditions presented by the applicant (community) and audited by competent authorities. The government ensures that the Conservancy of wild resources to generate economic growth. Often, private corporations work together with the conservancies to ensure they are investing correctly and making good business on tourism. Some conservancies are currently on their way to becoming shareholders, not just partners with these private corporations. The accompanying NACSO (Namibian Association for CMNR Support Organizations) is a primary aid for capacity building of conservancies and their evolution. Namibia's history truly inspires our country.

In conclusion, the CMNR in Namibia is a national program that provides leverage for comparative advantages of countries to meet the challenges of sustainable development.

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The Conservancy is a conservation concession of communal land as well as private land



# WWF MWIOPPO IN NUMBERS

11

11 offices in Madagascar

200

More than 200 staff members in Madagascar

1963

WWF MWIOPPO started its activities in 1963

50

More than 50 projects in Madagascar and 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.

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