



NEWSLETTER

MWIOPO

FEBRUARY
2014



Dear friends,

In 2013, we took the time to reflect on the successes, challenges and experiences of WWF's 50 years of action in Madagascar. We ended the celebration of our fiftieth anniversary with the conviction of now being able to start a new decade, and this, hand in hand with our partners and friends.

It is with great joy and optimism that we at WWF wish you a happy and successful 2014. We hope that this year will bring each one of us the determination and motivation needed to deliver great results for Madagascar: preservation and protection for the island's biodiversity and communities that are benefiting from sustainable, environmentally friendly development.

This year, WWF will begin to shift its attention to critical landscapes and will focus on four priority areas that are representative of Madagascar's biodiversity and of four highly important ecoregions: the spiny forests, moist forests, mangroves and the marine area. The four targeted landscapes are the Mahafaly Plateau, the Northern Highlands (the forest corridor of Marojejy- Anjanaharibe South-Tsaratana), Manambolo Tsiribihina and the Northern Mozambique Channel. We will intensify our actions in these areas, by raising the challenge to provide solutions to the present major issues including, fight against deforestation and the overexploitation of natural resources, climate change adaptation, energy access to all, and of course consolidating our partnerships at all levels and, in particular, with the grassroots communities.

May we all enjoy a happy and prosperous year!

Rick Hughes
Regional Representative



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WWF CELEBRATES ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

WWF celebrated 50 years of work, partnerships and achievements in biodiversity conservation for Madagascar on November 15th, 2013. The celebration was held at the Palace of Manjakamiadana and brought together our national and international conservation partners and supporters. “We are proud of the results achieved and we will double our efforts for Madagascar, with your support, dear partners,” declared Richard Hugues, WWF MWIOPO’s Regional Representative. WWF marks this historic anniversary by highlighting the change of direction in its conservation approach, which will shift to the protection of priority landscapes, “Our approach focuses on those landscapes which are the most representative of the region’s biodiversity. These areas hold great value in terms of environmental services for the populations who depend on them. We support the protection of the biodiversity and the sound management of natural resources,” stated Gérard Rambeloarisoa, WWF’s Conservation Director.

WWF committed to support our programme in Madagascar and we are proud of the achievements made in this region which is one of the most important biologic areas in the world. In the future we will pursue our contributions to promote environmental conservation and support to Madagascar’s communities” stated Nina Jensen, Chief Executive Officer, WWF Norway.

This new approach will enable WWF to better identify the conservation demands and challenges in the coming decades and maximize our response to address the environmental and social health of entire regions.

The celebration took place in the presence of various government dignitaries, chancellery, technical and financial partners and friends of WWF.

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OUR LANDSCAPES, THE HEART OF OUR MISSION

On November 13th 2013, WWF, in partnership with the University of Antananarivo, organized a Landscape Day dedicated to share information and discuss ideas about our activities in the priority landscapes. WWF teams presented their visions, challenges and projections on the main intervention areas of the Mahafaly Plateau, the forest corridor of Fandriana Vondrozo, Manambolo Tsiribihina and the Northern Mozambique Channel. Each of these areas shows the different, complementary and complex challenges of a landscape representative of Madagascar and the western Indian Ocean. Our work in these landscapes will not be limited to just the conservation challenges, but we will use our presence there to provide indepth, sustainable solutions that address the whole ecosystems of the regions, environmental and social. Our landscape approach will promote environmental solutions by addressing the whole context of regional problems, including social causes that are often at the root of environmental destruction, through the engagement and development of local communities. Representatives from WWF international, national and international partners were present for the day.



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ENERGY FOR ALL

The Malagasy energy situation is clear: electricity supply is low throughout the country and so wood (firewood and charcoal) is the energy source used by more than 90% of the population. This observation was the genesis of an Energy Day at the University of Antananarivo, featuring an open debate on access to energy, organized by WWF's Energy Programme and coordinated by Voahirana Randriambola.

“WWF believes that we can and we must find our electricity from clean and renewable energies, in Madagascar and throughout the world. This is why we are supporting progress towards the popularization of these energies through our actions and those of our partners,” explains Voahirana.

Energy Day also provides the opportunity to present recent advances and achievements in terms of renewable energies by WWF and other partner organizations and associations working in this field including, the spreading of efficient lamps, improved stoves, energy oriented reforestation, as well as solar and wind energy projects.



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WWF SHARES ITS EXPERIENCE AT THE WIOMSA SYMPOSIUM

‘Science and Society: building partnerships for action’ was the theme of the 8th scientific symposium of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), held in Maputo, Mozambique. This symposium, organized every two years, provides the opportunity to share results from conservation work in marine and coastal areas and facilitates the exchange of experiences, lessons learned, ideas and best practices among experts, professionals, students and researchers in the marine field. More than 200 oral presentations and special sessions were organized during this symposium, including presentations by WWF’s marine programme. WIOMSA also grants subsidies to a number of first time authors to allow them to attend the event and to present their works.

WWF MWIOPO was able to share and discuss our practices and experiences in terms of sustainable management of marine and coastal natural resources, in terms of design, implementation and conservation approach. It was an offered opportunity to organize these sessions and special presentations on the actions performed by WWF in Madagascar.

ECHOES FROM WIOMSA



Next to the general meeting of WIOMSA, Harifidy Ralison was elected as a member of the Board of Directors for a term of three years. He is the first Malagasy to be part of WIOMSA’s board.

Harifidy Ralison has an academic background on ecological marine management and forestry. He is leading the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) marine portfolio on behalf of WWF. Currently, his highest priority is to build a constituency for the Northern Mozambique Channel transboundary Initiative that involves five neighboring countries in the WIO.

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BIODIVERSITY IN PHOTOS

In honour of WWF's 50 years in Madagascar we launched a national photo contest, inviting amateur photographers to share their best photos of Madagascar across six categories: flora and fauna, oceans and marine life, impacts of human activities on the environment, rural and community life and a special category dedicated to young children.

With more than a thousand photos submitted, the contest revealed to us once again the splendor of Madagascar's biodiversity and the extent of the degradation it suffers. The island's riches and challenges were skillfully immortalized by passionate and talented participants, to whom WWF expresses its wholehearted thanks. WWF awarded prizes for the best pictures in each category.

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NEW PROJECTS

Integrated sea use management - North Mozambique Channel (MGO891.01)

Donor 1: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Start date: Novembre 2013 - Planned end date: July 31, 2014

Donor 2: WWF Sweden

Start date: September 1, 2013 - Planned end date: March 31, 2014

Summary: the UNEP as the Secretariat for the Nairobi Convention agrees to collaborate with WWF to develop a background document for the Northern Mozambique Channel highlighting the challenges and opportunities, synthesize available information and build a case for the Northern Mozambique Channel that will be presented to the contracting parties for their consideration in the next Conference of Parties.

Engagement and follow-up FOCAC implementation (Madagascar) (9Fo75902 DFID)

Start date: July 1, 2013 - Planned end date: June 30, 2014

Initial donor : Department for International Development (DFID), British Government

Contracting donor : WWF-UK

Summary: From 2003 to 2008 African economies experienced average annual growth rates of around 6%. This growth has been largely based on demand for Africa's natural resources, driven to a great extent by increasing demand and associated investments from China. It is likely that China will continue to fuel an increasing demand for Africa's natural resources. As a result, China – Africa linkages could be a key element in promoting sustainable development, poverty reduction, a more equitable distribution of benefits and achieving the MDGs in Africa.

Spatial-temporal dynamics and development of a model for regulation of livestock transhumance in the Mahafaly plateau, South-West Madagascar (MGO93201 IDRC)

Start date: October 1, 2013 - Planned end date: September 30, 2014

Donor: IDRC

Summary: WWF would like to implement a livestock transhumance research project in the Mahafaly landscape located in Southwest Madagascar, through the IDRC subsidy. In fact, livestock transhumance has strong dynamics and we need to identify its causes and effects.

Study of the evolution of climate change, forest cover, and practices of local communities on the Plateau Mahafaly since their installation in Madagascar (MGO932 IES)

Start date: November 2013

Planned end date: February 28, 2014

Donors: Institute of environmental studies (IES) university of new south wales (UNSW)

Summary : this research project will focus on pastoralism, an economical existence on the Mahafaly Plateau.

Individual and community widespread reforestation and for energy purposes in the South-West Region of Madagascar - ALA MEVA - 2013-2014 (MGO952.01)

Start date: August 1, 2013

Planned end date: July 31, 2014

Donor: Fondation environnementale TANY MEVA

Summary: the project aims to improve the availability of forests for energy purposes in the South-West region.

WWF MWIOPPO IN NUMBERS

50

50 years of conservation mission in Madagascar

10

10 priority landscapes in Madagascar & WIO

200

200 staff in Madagascar & WIO

+500

More than 500 projects since 1963



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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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