



WWF

NEWSLETTER

MWIOPO

JULY

2013

2013 is a milestone for WWF in the region, as we celebrate our 50th anniversary in Madagascar working to help conserve the unique natural heritage of this country. We are proud of the strong partnerships we have developed over the years with the Government of Madagascar, local educational and research institutions, technical and financial partners, civil society and rural communities.

Together we have mounted numerous projects, from the first activities in 1963 to support research and protection of the Aye-Aye, once thought to have been extinct; to supporting the development of one of the first National Environmental Action Plans in Africa; to the establishment of one of the leading biodiversity funds in Africa. We have worked together to shape propositions for the [Forum for China-Africa Collaboration \(FOCAC\)](#); to support hundreds of communities to receive the rights to manage their own natural resources; to strengthen international conventions to which Madagascar is party, such as [CBD](#) and [CITES](#); and to reinforce best practices for industries that rely on natural resources, such as the Shrimp Fishers' Association and the [Indian Ocean Tuna Commission](#).

As we look back on 50 years of conservation partnership, and look forward to future needs of the Malagasy people, and those of the other countries in the region, we capitalize on the lessons learned and continue to evolve in our thinking and approaches. Faced with growing population and continually diminishing natural resource base, the need to conserve essential ecosystem services and functionality is as strong as ever.

The success in moving to achieve the goal of tripling protected areas, set out in 2003, is a critical milestone. In the face of increased pressures from population growth, a changing climate, global dynamics affecting food security and water resources, the challenges are great. But there is growing recognition of the opportunity to address these challenges by following a better, more sustainable development strategy for the future. There is growing potential for a future development path to "green growth"; one that balances credible economic development opportunities with the need to conserve key environmental values and services for long-term.

One of the key messages of [Earth Hour](#) is that everyone, from the highest-placed to the most humble, can make a difference. Simple solutions are at hand, that make economic sense while conserving resources. The use of improved cook stoves or 'fatana mitsitsy' can reduce deforestation and household expenses at the same time. Sustainable fishing practices ensure the long-term wellbeing of fishing communities and businesses.

While the pressure on the environment is great, the potential to conserve the heritage of unique environment and biodiversity in Madagascar, which sets this island apart from any other in the world, remains. Citizens throughout the country recognize this heritage, and stand ready to preserve it and the essential services it provides them. More than anything else, 50 years of collaboration since 1963 in Madagascar has shown us that the capacity of the Malagasy people gives us reason for optimism!

Rick Hughes



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50 years of conservation mission in Madagascar

1963-2013. This year, WWF celebrates its 50 years of conservation mission in Madagascar. The very first project, launched in 1963, focused on the conservation of ayes ayes, emblematic lemurs of the Big Island. Today, WWF has established around 500 projects in Madagascar and in the Western Indian Ocean region, with the collaboration of the Malagasy administration, our partners and grassroots communities.

The first official office of WWF opened in Antananarivo in 1979, a Headquarters agreement was signed in 1996, and it was only in 1999 that the organization extended its mission to Mauritius, Seychelles and the Comoros.

Today WWF gives priority to the protection of endemic species in ten terrestrial and marine landscapes. “These ten landscapes are the most representative of their regions. We do not only focus on environmental values, but also on the sound management of these natural resources through the involvement of local communities and our partners” states Richard Hughes, WWF’s regional representative.

The promotion of protected areas is among WWF’s activities in Madagascar. In 1986, WWF set up its “Biodiversity and Protected Area Development” programme; in 1988 and 1996, it took active part in the wording and the definition of an environmental action national plan. WWF accompanied the creation and the development of the Madagascar Protected Area system under the supervision of the ANGAP which is now called [Madagascar National Parks](#). Today, the organization continues to support the creation of marine protected areas through its marine programme.

In 2003, WWF was among the conservation organizations established in Madagascar who welcomed and actively supported the Durban Vision, which announced the increase of the surface of protected areas, from 1.7 million to 6 million hectares in five years.

During its fifty years, WWF also encouraged the active participation of local communities, particularly by establishing [natural resources management transfers](#). “It is a very effective way of empowering communities which are both the pillars and beneficiaries of our conservation actions. The involvement of these village communities ensures the success of these



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conservation projects” says Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana, WWF’s former Conservation Director.

WWF also supports environmental education among youth. The Environmental Education programme established Vintsy Clubs and the environmental and educational magazine “Vintsy”. Today there are 700 clubs with 50,000 members in secondary schools, high schools and universities of Madagascar.

Today, WWF has more than 5 million members across the world, an open network in 96 countries and implements 12,000 programmes for the preservation of biodiversity.



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1,000 fatana for the earth !

WWF’s challenge for the celebration of **Earth Hour**: 1,000 efficient cookers or fatana mitsitsy and 10,000 seedlings. These 1,000 fatana mitsitsy, the fruit of the cooperation between WWF and the **Association for the Development of Solar Energy (ADES)**, were distributed to families who suffered most from the Haruna Cyclone in Toliara.

Major deforestation due to charcoal and wood energy supply greatly affects Southern forests and the situation is all the more alarming as this region’s dry wood potential is of 64,000 tons while the daily needs of the populations rise up to 300,000 tons every year. Charcoal and wood energy however remain the main energy sources for 80% of the Malagasy as they are the most affordable. Thus the use of a fatana mitsitsy is strongly encouraged.

Through the use of a fatana mitsitsy, a family can save half of its charcoal consumption which amounts to 70,000 MGA of savings every year. The 1000 distributed fatana represent as a whole, for their three year lifespan, 210 million MGA of savings, 525 ha of protected forests or 20,000 tons of dry wood.

In Antananarivo, the first wave of 2,300 seedlings was planted by schoolchildren in Ambohidratrimo. As **Earth Hour** was originally a symbolic action of turning off lights, restaurants in the capital city joined in by organizing candle light dinners while the Queen’s palace and the Town Hall, along with historic buildings in **7,000 cities** around the world, symbolically turned off their lights.



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Aerial monitoring of PK-32-Ranobe: We saved the equivalent of 5,160 football fields!

Slash and burn has become common practice in the new protected area of PK32-Ranobe (148,553ha), destroying luxurious limestone forests in order to plant maize on rocky lands which are unsuitable for planting.

In November 2010, 2011 and 2012 photos taken during our aerial monitoring have directed the interventions of joint ground patrols. These actions aim at raising awareness of communities and discouraging offenders to return to the cleared sites.

Agricultural clearings on the whole protected area, as traced by Google Earth showed annual rates of 4,222.6 ha in November 2010, 1,292.11 ha in November 2011 and 1,993 ha in November 2012. The rates fell from 69.4% to 52.8% in 2012.

Thus the aerial monitoring project's goal to reduce by 50% the clearing rate in this new protected area is succeeding thanks to the efforts of the management team of PK32-Ranobe and the communities.

Despite the poor enforcement of forest laws, the project was able to save 5,160.09 ha of forests, which is the equivalent of 5,160 football fields, between November 2010 and November 2012.

However, 1993 ha were still cleared in 2012. At this clearing pace, the limestone forests of PK32-Ranobe will disappear in thirty years. Yet it is a vital source of forest products for the Toliara region. So let's keep going!



Victory of Madagascar's precious wood: now registered in Appendix II of CITES!

The 16th conference of the parties held in Bangkok, granted the registration of Madagascar Dalbergia and Dyospiros precious woods in [Appendix II](#). Madagascar submitted this request in February 2013 as it was awaiting the establishment of a management system for the cut timber. WWF participated very actively in this process.

Thanks to our partnership with [CITES](#), we were able to provide financial support to various studies and works on which the Malagasy proposals were based. Registration of precious wood to CITES provides an international instrument to better manage inventory and improve the application of national laws.



Life changing improved stoves

Six villages in the Eastern forest corridor of Maroteza and ten villages in the Western mangrove areas have started using improved stoves.

Now, 65% of the households in these villages can make their own stoves and use them every day. They have been seduced by the efficiency of these new life changing tools.

Positive changes are seen such as the decrease by 60% of the quantity of firewood used per family, reducing energy costs by 60%. Thus a mother now spends 1,000 MGA (USD 0,47) a week through the use of the improved stove, instead of 2,500 MGA (USD 1,20) previously.

Each week, families used to spend half a day collecting firewood in forests and mangrove forests. Now they no longer have to go into forests as they only need dry wood.

The promotion of improved stoves started in November 2012, but environmental committees can already observe significant effects in the conservation of forests and mangroves.

Furthermore, housewives are happy and feel safe thanks to these stoves, as they no longer have to fear fires, which was the reason they used to cook in the middle of the yard.

Families can now have small kitchens, making women's housework easier. They can also invest in other economic and social activities.

This project is part of a collaboration between WWF and its partner NGOs ([Saragna](#) and [Tandavanala](#))



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A climate station in Belo-sur-Tsiribihina

WWF, the [Mac Arthur Foundation](#) and the General Direction of Meteorology of Madagascar inaugurated a new climate station in Belo-sur-Tsiribihina in February 2013.

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This station daily collects the climate data of this region and can make short term previsions as well as projections on ten to fifty years. “ The availability of these data allow to refine our climate and meteorological projections, which will help us to better direct our climate change adaptation activities and to reduce the vulnerability of populations” says Harisoa Rakotondrazafy, in charge of the [Climate Change Adaptation project](#).

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These projections will be used for meteorology but also for other areas such as agriculture, fisheries, health, transport, tourism and environment. The data will be transferred to all the technical services of the Menabe region, to the regional and general directions of meteorology and will be accessible to all.

Two other climate stations will be added to this new station in Belo-sur-Tsiribihina, and will be installed in the Belo delta and in Masoarivo (Maintirano/Melaky).

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Climate Change workshop

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The Climate Change workshop on 21st & 22nd February was the occasion to capitalize and share the progresses of the partners within the [Climate Change Adaptation project](#), in order to retain and capitalize the lessons learned by each one.

Thus villagers, fishermen and farmers from Southern Madagascar, one of the regions which already experiences the consequences of climate change in their daily lives, met with climate change specialists.

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“Climate Change Adaptation” is still a rather new topic in Madagascar.

“We warmly welcome every recent ideas and teachings to improve our strategy in this matter” says Tiana Ramahaleo, Coordinator of [WWF’s Species and Conservation Programme](#)

Seven grandmothers at the Barefoot College

Seven elderly women from Tsaratanana in Southeastern Madagascar and from Iavomanitra in the Amoron’Mania region, are now following a training in India on the solar panel system. During six months, they will be trained in the techniques of installing, maintaining and connecting solar panels. As these women are illiterate or barely literate, the training will be done through graphics and signs. A training which has already proved successful since the 1990s .

Upon their return to the country, these women will be asked to connect solar panels in their villages to electrify each household. They will have premises to work in and will be supported by a villagers committee for the achievement of their new tasks.

The selection of these grandmothers was done in November and December 2012. They left Madagascar in March 2013 with the blessing of their villages. The latest news from [Tilonia, India](#) where they are now undergoing training, say that our seven grandmothers are managing very well among thirty women from the four corners of the world.



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Two yields, less pressure on resources

Melziane Blandine, chairman of a group of 24 water management pilot households, comes from a small village in the Mahafaly Plateau in Madagascar. The 44 year old mother of five had her flight premiere when she flew from the South-western city of Toliara to Antananarivo and from there to Switzerland. Together with Nosy Ranalisolofo (Project Officer) and Simon Rafanomezantsoa (Terrestrial Program Coordinator) she received the prestigious [ReSource Award](#) by SwissRe in Zurich. WWF Madagascar stood out among more than 300 other projects competing this year.

The Mahafaly Plateau hosts a unique biodiversity, is at the same time one of the poorest regions of Madagascar. The rains here have become shorter and residents have big problems growing enough food for their families and forage for their cattle.

The [project](#) aims to improve farmers’ access to water for production and to better technologies and production resources, thereby enhancing food security, access to income and pasture while taking pressure off the surrounding natural environment by developing and implementing a holistic watershed management plan.



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WED 2013: Think- Eat- Preserve

The World Environment Day, officially celebrated in Antsirabe, was innovative this year. Its theme “Think - Eat - Preserve” reveals the multidisciplinary challenges of conservation as it links consumption and environmental footprint.

According to [FAO](#) estimates, a third of the global food production is wasted every year, that is 1.3 billion tons. Food waste represents an important loss of natural resources yet it can be significantly reduced through everyday rational behaviors.

“The theme of the WED 2013 really makes the link between our daily attitudes and conservation itself. We see here that our consumption habits have a significant influence on our natural resources” comments Apollinaire Razafimahatratra, WWF Ecoregional leader in the Fandriana region.

Antanandahy succeeds in its livestock project

15,000 rhizophora propagules were planted in Nosimbagna by the group of beneficiary households of the income generation activities supported by WWF in Antanandahy, Belo-sur-Tsiribihina in march 2013. This is a laudable initiative which allowed them to expand the forest cover of Nosimbagna, where a restoration campaign was organized in 2012.

This group of fourteen households invested in raising ducks. Each family received twenty ducks and their livestock project was supported by WWF, Menabe regional office of livestock rearing, the DREF and the veterinary officers of Belo-sur-Tsiribihina.

The villagers brought this project to fruition by organizing food, care, and health maintenance of their birds. Each week a convoy went by pirogue to Belo-Sur-Tsiribihina to get provisions for the livestock. The results were promising. The ducks gave birth to young, proving that the animals were in good health. The success of this project encourages other villagers to begin income-generating activities to both improve their livelihoods and reduce their dependence on natural resources.

A mother plants 510 propagules

Remandy, a mother from Ambato, in the commune of Bemanonga, Morondava, deserves applause. On her own initiative, this mother of two whose daily work is shrimp fishing in the mangrove forests, decided to reforest some propagules. “In January, I went shrimp fishing. But after three hours, I still had nothing. I decided to collect propagules to plant, because I realized that seafood yields are low. I remembered some sensitizations about the importance of restoring mangroves to improve fishing stocks. That day, I gathered four boxes of propagules and some young plants ready to be transported, and in the afternoon, when the tide was low, I planted them.”

In this way, Remandy planted propagules over 500m². The team from WWF counted 510 propagules, all planted by this exemplary woman.

In December 2012, which saw the official launch of the campaign to restore mangroves in North Menabe coast, the team from WWF Morondava and its partners began a massive sensitization on mangrove restoration. This was followed by the planting of 40,000 propagules in Ambato-sur-mer, in the Kivalo commune. Different activities livened up the sensitizations: games, competitions, and dancing. This day of raising awareness was evidently fruitful: Remandy’s initiative is proof.



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Exhibitions: «Water» and «Ode to nature»

«Water» and «Ode to nature», two exhibitions which valued nature and its benefits.

The photo exhibition «Water» organized by the BMOI, was an opportunity for WWF to share its projects related to water: micro irrigation in the Mahafaly plateau, desalination unit based on solar energy to supply the Beheloka village in drinking water and planting of sea weeds in the South of Toliara to reduce overfishing in the region.

«Ode to nature» was more of a cultural exhibition, as it emphasized the role of biodiversity in the Malagasy identity and culture.



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New Projects

8 new projects

***MG2006.00* - “Sustainable agricultural and husbandry systems in the Manakaravavy watershed, the breadbasket of the Mahafaly plateau”**

Start date: **1 Avril 2013** - Planned end date: **30 Juin 2015**

Donor: **Swiss Re (Swiss Reinsurance Company Ltd)**

Summary:

The project will be implemented in one of WWF’ priority landscape, Mahafaly Plateau, habitat for threatened tortoises, rare blind fishes and endemic plants, the most representative of the Ecoregion and an important center of micro-endemism where WWF seeks to increase focus on sustainable livelihoods. The main objectives of this project are (1) A management system for the Manakaravavy watershed is implemented by local community and authority. (2) The production capacity of the Maniry Valley is doubled and (3) The capacity of grazing land within the watershed is at least doubled.

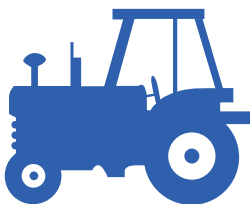
***MG2008.00* - “Stemming environmental crime in Madagascar”**

Start date: **1 Janvier 2013** - Planned end date: **31 Décembre 2014**

Donor: **Wildcat foundation**

Summary:

The project is implemented in one of WWF’ priority landscape, Mandrare river basin, as a continuation of Phase 1 and will scale up from four to ten protected area target sites, all of which are extremely vulnerable to illegal activity and ecological damage due to weakened law enforcement in the context of complex political realities. The overall goal remains the same: To reduce threats to Madagascar’s spiny forest, including fires, illegal harvest of wood and species trade, by establishing an early warning system for the detection of illegal activities and effective policing of forested areas.



***MG2009.01 /02/03* - “Madagascar Programme - Improving Biodiversity Management and Governance in the Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean Islands”**

Start date: **1 Janvier 2013** - Planned end date: **31 Décembre 2016**

Donor: **NORAD**

Summary:

This is a multiyear programme funded by **NORAD** for 2013-2016. The project has 3 components: climate change, traditional fisheries and support to education program. The project goal is: “The well-being and livelihoods of the people of the Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean islands are improved through the maintenance and increased resilience of the unique ecosystems, fauna and flora on which they depend”.

MG2009.01 - “Framing National Adaptation Plan for Madagascar - a process for mid and long term adaptation planning”

Start date: **1 Mars 2013** - Planned end date: **30 Juin 2013**

Donor: **WWF Singapore**

Summary:

This project is aiming at supporting the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Madagascar to improve and enhance understanding on mid and long-term adaptation planning and the scope of its needs in terms of adaptation to climate change, in order to have a pro-poor oriented, socioeconomically and environmentally acceptable, gender sensitive, and an integrated approach of human right National Adaptation Plan, focused on the needs of vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

MG2010 - “A barefoot college for Madagascar”

Start date: **1 Janvier 2013** - Planned end date: **31 Décembre 2013**

Donor: **WWF Belgium**

Summary:

The main purpose of the project is to identify, train and prepare 7 «master trainers» (also called «grandmothers») from the selected communities in Madagascar before end 2013 in solar rural electrification. This includes logistics, travel within country and financial support for families during the absence of the Master Trainers.

Suite MG0953 - “Promoting environmental good governance through building strong environmental civil society organizations”

Start date: **1 Janvier 2013** - Planned end date: **31 Décembre 2013**

Donor: **NORAD**

Summary:

Environmental CBOs improve their institutional, technical and organizational capacity to be mandated with management of natural resources (i.e. forests and marine resources).

Suite MG0956 - “Sida Funding Madagascar and West Indian Ocean 2013 - Education for Sustainable Development ESD YES”

Start date: **1 Janvier 2013** - Planned end date: **31 Décembre 2013**

Donor: **SIDA**

Summary:

This is the **SIDA** funding for 2013 of the “Education for Sustainable Development ESD YES” project as a continuation of the 2010-2012 funding. Education for Sustainable Development project has 3 intermediate outcomes: (1) The voice of youths and youth coalitions in programme areas is strengthened in processes related to sustainable development at school and in society, (2) Youths in programme areas are more engaged in sustainable income-generating activities, (3) ESD has been better integrated into the school system in programme areas.



Suite MG0943 - “Sida Funding Madagascar and West Indian Ocean 2013 - Sustaining Life: Empowering Civil Society for Improved Livelihoods and Effective Natural Resources Management in Madagascar”

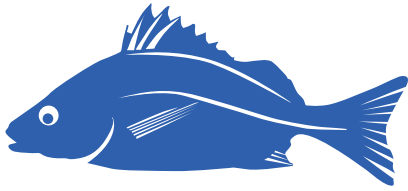
Start date: **1 Janvier 2013** - Planned end date: **31 Décembre 2013**

Donor: **SIDA**

Summary:

This is the 2013 funding for the “sustaining life” project as a continuation of the 2010-2012 funding.

The development of management plans in each community territory will lead to a better planning and allow focusing on some value chain activities. For 2013, the conservation of mangrove ecosystems will improve local community welfare, particularly fishermen and their household members. The target environmental CSO network will be able to effectively play their to establish a good governance of natural resources and a more equitable sharing of benefits at all levels.



New Opportunities

1 new opportunity

Reducing Malagasy spiny forest deforestation and degradation (REDD-Spiny)

Donor: **European Union**

Duration : **4 years**

Status : **Concept submitted to donor**

Summary:

This action will encourage reflections on the **REDD+** national strategy, through concrete models of spiny forest deforestation and degradation mitigation actions, by connecting communities with the private sector. Besides, by the end of the Action, a MRV system model for spiny forests including the monitoring of co-beneficiaries will complement the development works of the **REDD+** national strategy.

Gérard Rambeloarisoa is WWF Madagascar & Western Indian Ocean Programme Office’s new Conservation Director.

Research professor & expert in forestry, Gérard Rambeloarisoa worked with WWF before. He was also the CEO of the Ministry of Environment and the Leader of the Water and Environment program of UNDP.

Before joining again WWF, he worked as Business Development Manager for Mada Woodlands.



A new step within WWF. After 14 years of good and loyal services within WWF, as conservation director for MWIOPO since 2004, Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana is adding milestones to her career by becoming **Design & Impact Advisor**, within **WWF International's** Conservation Strategy while remaining in Antananarivo. Looking back on these years.

When did you start at WWF?

I never thought I would be involved in conservation. When I graduated from university, I hadn't decided yet what I was going to do. But then I worked for the Ranomafana National Park Project, funded by **USAID**, where I started getting an interest for conservation through the technical reports that I translated. Later, I joined the technical assistance team of the **ANGAP**. It was then that I heard about WWF. Later, while doing my masters in the US in 1999, Jean Paul Paddack from WWF organized an internship for me within WWF US, where I worked on the implementation of the ecoregional concept, including the Madagascar Southern Spiny Forests. Back in Madagascar, I became a consultant for the Ala Maiky project of WWF and integrated the staff one year later.

What will you remember from these 20 years within WWF?

I will particularly remember the Durban vision and the momentum it gave to the whole conservation community. Indeed, after the Durban statement, we worked hard for its achievement. The **IUCN** helped us to design various forms of protected areas. I really appreciated the atmosphere of collaboration and commitment of all within the **SAPM** commission. The Durban vision is now achieved but is still fragile. With the crisis, the new protected areas code could not be decreed, le **SAPM** still does not have the legal and policy frameworks it deserves. The final protection status are still awaiting, negotiations for successive suspensions of new mining licenses on future PA areas – as we achieved since 2006- will become harder.

What are the new conservation tendencies?

Some of the actions born under my initiative: the energy programme – as wood energy is still a major environmental, economic and sanitary issue; the civil society capacity building programme, particularly for grassroots communities and the climate change programme. The great tendency since **Rio +20** is obviously the mainstreaming of the environment in the economic model, “the green economy” which has various meanings, so it is ours to define what it will mean for Madagascar!

What will you miss?

Field visits, meeting people ... I especially like the Southern part of the country; the people there are very honest. Once, when I had just arrived there, I made a reproach to the “Chef Cantonnement Forestier” of Amboasary Sud, and he held it against me during a whole week. After that, I learned how to interact with people on the field, and we became good friends.



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WWF MWIOPO IN NUMBERS

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

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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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