

RISKS AND CHALLENGES

The Northern Highlands landscape is currently facing external pressures that are damaging its environment, accelerating its loss of natural resources.

- Slash-and-burn agriculture and deforestation are both destroying forests, and causing soil erosion.
- Climate change is disrupting the region's agricultural seasons.
- Uncontrolled or illegal logging of valuable timber – even in protected areas – is threatening habitats and the wildlife that reside in them, as well as important forest resources that are needed by local communities.
- The proper management of water resources, especially rivers, is essential, since this area depends upon drinking water access, both for agriculture, and for its several million inhabitants.



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|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| District headquarters | Forest |
| National Road | Protected Area |
| River | Region's border |
| The Northern Highlands landscape | |



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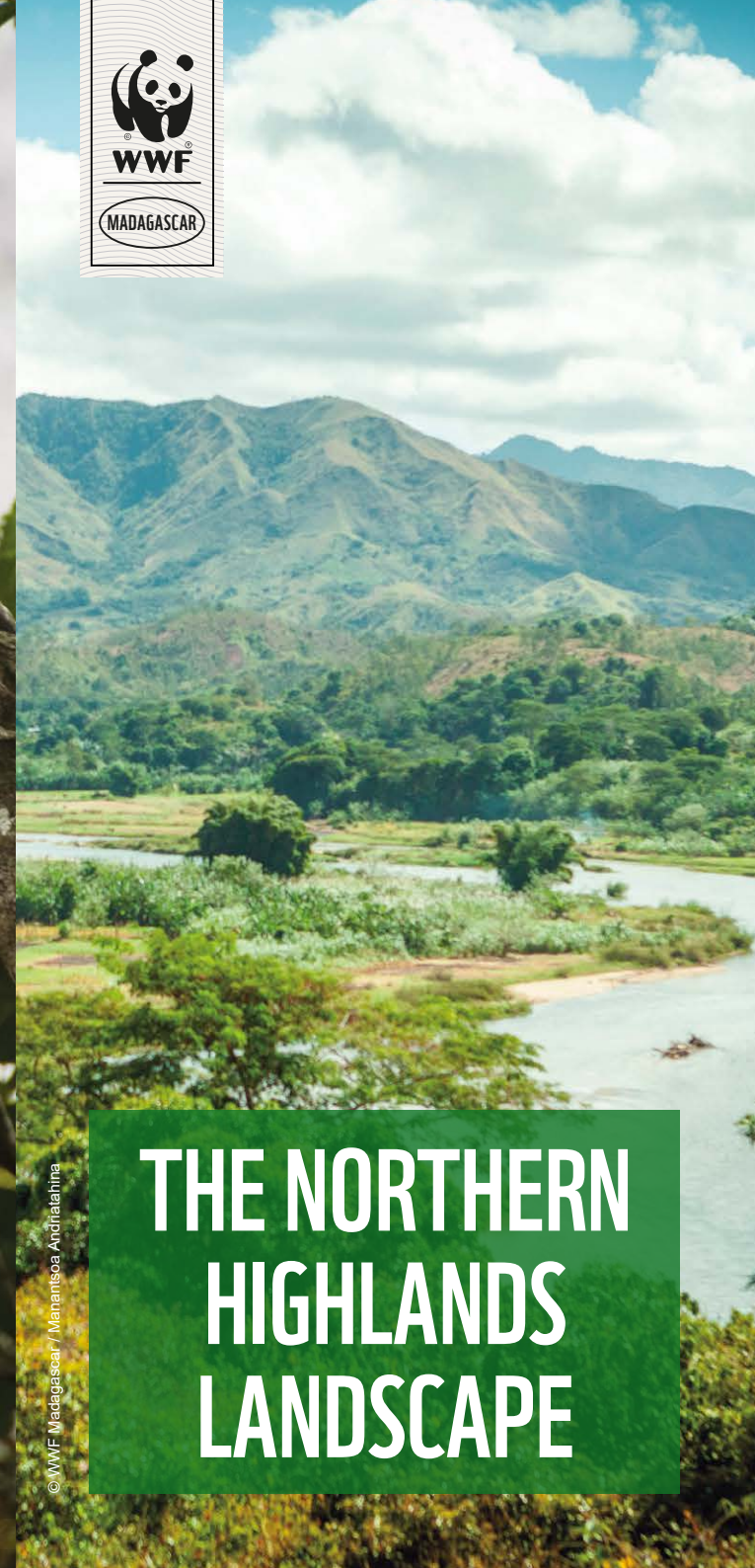
WWF at the Northern Highlands landscape
 B.P 42
 Antenne Andapa- Ankevaheva,
 Andapa (205), Madagascar.
 +261 34 49 803 93

WWF Madagascar
 BP 738
 Lot près II M 85 Ter Antsakaviro
 Antananarivo 101, Madagascar.
 +261 20 22 348 85 - + 261 34 49 888 05
 wwfmadagascar@wwf.mg
 www.wwf.mg



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 and nature.



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THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS LANDSCAPE

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The Northern Highlands landscape is home to one of the largest forest blocks in Madagascar. Relatively unscathed from human interference, the Northern Highlands remains a huge breeding ground for Madagascar's exceptional biodiversity.

More than 2,281 different species are found in this landscape, of which 538 are endemic to it. The landscape is also home to Madagascar's second largest terrestrial protected area: the Ambohimirahavy Marivorahona Protected Areas Complex (CAPAM).

Millions of people also depend on this landscape for water, both for drinking and for agricultural purposes. The Northern Highland's forests contain the sources of six large rivers that provide water to the eastern and western parts of northern Madagascar, in the Sava, Sofia, and Diana regions.



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ACTIONS

WWF works on the Northern Highlands landscape to:

1 Improve the management of the 537,000 hectares of protected land.

WWF promotes community-based natural resource management within the protected areas of the Northern Highlands, and its surrounding areas. By the end of 2016, about 50% of the Protected area of Marojejy Tsaratanàna corridor (COMATSA), which constitutes a large proportion of the total protected area of the landscape (318,087 hectares), was being managed by the community.

2 Promote new sustainable farming techniques to improve the quality and quantity of crops produced, and subsequently boost the incomes of those who live in agricultural areas.

Vanilla production is the basis of the area's economy, and the source of most people's income : Vanilla production for the landscape has been valued up to 900Million USD per year and rice production up to 80 million USD per year.

WWF aims to improve household incomes by promoting sustainable agriculture that is adapted to changing climate threats, endorsing the diversification of food crops, and helping people to have access the markets for their products.

3 Promote a sustainable wood energy sector in the districts of Andapa and Sambava.

In order to cope with the unsustainable use of wood in the production of firewood and charcoal, WWF supports programmes which replant trees that are commonly used to produce fuelwood. In 2017 about 250,000 acacia trees were planted over an area of 230 hectares in the COMATSA forest corridor.

4 Improve the landscape's governance of natural resources.

Thanks to support from WWF, civil societies have become more effective at managing the landscape's natural resources. WWF has offered them technical, organisational and patrol support, and has also promoted community-based natural resource management agreements. These agreements, formalised by the Malagasy state, have empowered villagers by giving them administrative authority over their territory, and the management of the forest resources that reside within it.