



WWF

NEWSLETTER

MWIOPO

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we closed the first quarter of 2012, I think it's worth highlighting some of the great things that we helped to achieve in 2011.

Supporting Civil Society and Communities:

- ☑ Strengthened civil society organizations and platforms on oil and gas spark interest of industry,
- ☑ National and regional platforms of environmental NGOs demonstrated increased activities and engagement on a number of issues,
- ☑ Fish catch revenue increased in intervention areas of our seascape south of Toilara through adherence to more sustainable practices,
- ☑ Environmental groups (Clubs Vintsy), formed around schools at various levels, continue to be active and expand; out of a total of 652 active clubs with 50,000 members, 140 were new clubs established during 2011,
- ☑ Hundreds of community management groups were established and/or supported around priority land and seascapes, to improve community-based management of their natural resources,
- ☑ Over 200,000ha of forests transferred to community management,
- ☑ A unique new program in collaboration with German Universities was launched in the southwest, in one of our priority landscapes, supporting over 30 German and Malagasy students to study sustainable land management models,
- ☑ Alternative income and improved agricultural techniques increasingly adopted by local communities,



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Natural Resource Governance:

- ☑ Listing of precious woods (rosewood and ebony) on CITES annex III, with groundwork laid for inscription on annex II,
- ☑ Strategic Environmental Assessment concept promoted with ministries of mines and oil and gas through training and awareness raising activities for ministry staff, local government, decentralized technical services and civil society organizations,
- ☑ Local engagement in sustainable tuna management improved through coordination with coastal states including introducing concepts of rights-based-management,
- ☑ Significant reduction in the amount of illegal timber products known to be leaving the country,
- ☑ Temporary protection status officially granted to nearly all the new protected areas promoted, representing 350,000 ha,
- ☑ Improved carbon maps produced for major landscapes to support national REDD+ efforts,
- ☑ Proposed intermediate regulatory text on agrifuels developed and promoted,
- ☑ A new collaboration was established with an African Development Bank-funded irrigation program in the southwest, to ensure maximum benefits for both development and conservation,
- ☑ The proven effectiveness of aerial surveillance, to support communities identifying incursions into protected areas, led to expanded adoption by Government and Madagascar National Parks,
- ☑ Climate change support in the Diana Region has helped ensure that climate change considerations were integrated into the first regional management plan (SRAT) developed in Madagascar,
- ☑ Seychelles and Mauritius continue to make progress toward developing a joint management framework for the mascarene banks, including Saya de Malha, one of the world's potential "high seas gems",
- ☑ The Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge gains momentum with leadership from Seychelles and support from a new EU-funded regional program of the Indian Ocean Commission,

Reducing the Human Footprint:

- ☑ The Director General of Energy held the first inter-sectorial discussion on the development of a national low carbon development plan in line with the vision of sustainable energy development,
- ☑ Strategic study on agrifuel development completed, and a guidebook on agrifuel projects validated and presented to stakeholders,
- ☑ New partnerships established on wind energy and solar desalination,
- ☑ Collaboration with Ministry of Energy, the national electric company (JIRAMA) and Telma Foundation concluded a highly successful pilot distribution of 6,000 energy-efficient fluo compact lamps (donated by PHILIPS) in preparation for larger distribution,
- ☑ Cooperation on strengthening fuel wood management and regulation strengthened with a number of partners,
- ☑ Solar cookers and improved cook stoves promoted on markets to reduce demand for fuel wood and charcoal.

Great job!!!

Rick Hughes

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Rosewood: The difficult compromise!

A controversial decree, and its consequences

The Ministry of Environment and Forests' (MEF) issued a Ministerial Decree No. 741/2012 on January 18, 2012, "Establishing the classification and dimensional standardization and the royalty rate on the marketing and the export of forest main products", which caused an uproar in the environmental community.

Environmental groups expressed their concern while trying to support the Ministry to recognize the risks and find better alternatives. The Ministry made an attempt to modify the decree and close the loophole for precious-woods, however the greater concern over other types of wood export were left unchanged. Eventually, the Decree was annulled by the Council of Ministers and, beyond that, this controversial decree on the export of timber contributed to the subsequent dismissal of the Minister of the Environment, Dr. Joseph Randriamiarisoa.

According to the key officials of the Ministry, the decree was promulgated to address the export of rosewood and common wood which are held at the port of Mahajanga (500 containers).

The concern revolved around the fact that the Ministry issued a wide-ranging decree, likely to have uncontrollable long-term impacts, to tackle a short-term problem. Indeed, the text could have opened a way for the export of wood of all categories and in all forms (including therefore the first category of wood, rose wood, raw wood and charcoal). Moreover, the decree was in conflict with various higher-level legal (Order 2011/001, Decree 2010-141, Interministerial Decree 10885/2007, etc).

In addition, the Ministry's technical and financial partners were surprised by the fact that they were not made aware of the development or release of this text, despite the fact that they had been invited and urged to work in close collaboration with the Minister two months beforehand to strengthen the action plan for clearing up the traffic of precious woods in Madagascar.

WWF's Response

Once it received a copy of the decree, WWF immediately sent a letter to the (then) Minister on February 23, expressing our concerns, and then followed up by an in-person meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2012. WWF's concerns are focused on the potential adverse consequences, the limits of the current forest potential in relation to demand (wood energy and precious woods), legal conflicts and issues of communication and transparency in the promulgation of the decree.

The former Minister was keen to provide clarifications directly and by official letter of response, which was presented to WWF in person during the meeting. In his response, he insisted on the legality and usefulness of the decree, and the fact that the time was most favorable to relieve the situation of the timber suffering in the ports on the one hand however recognizing that the timing for other consequences of opening export might not be ideal. He maintained his position, on the other hand, that the Decree, for which he takes personal responsibility, would not influence in any way the process of clearing the traffic of precious woods undertaken with the technical and financial partners.

Decision of the Transition Government

Following the various appeals from the diplomatic community, and aware of the danger that could be brought about by the implementation of this text, the Council of Ministers of March 14, 2012, proceeded to annul the decree.

Subsequently, the Minister was dismissed on April 14. Apart from dismissing the Minister for Environment, the President of the High Authority of the Transition (HAT) also gave the instruction to immediately establish a selected committee to monitor and control the implementation of the provisions of the Decree 2010-141 (the order issued by the President of the HAT calling for the immediate halt to all cutting, stocking, movement or sale of precious rosewood or ebony) throughout the country and that a meeting on this matter will shortly be organized with the Prime Minister to determine the appropriate actions to be taken.

Ndranto Razakamanarina

HPCF: Review and outlook

The Holistic Programme for the Conservation of Forests (a programme financed by Air France and implemented in partnership with the GoodPlanet Foundation) enters into its fourth year of implementation. The program aims to reduce deforestation rates in 500,000 ha of land in three of WWF's priority landscapes (Northern Highlands, COFAV - Fandriana - Vondrozo Corridor, and Mandrare Basin) while improving the living conditions of farmers in these areas.

When looking back we can be proud of significant results

1. about sixty community based forest management transfers were put in place to ensure 20,000 ha of forest are responsibly managed by the local population,
2. 7 New Protected Areas (NAPs) of 350,000 ha are currently being established to conserve the rich biodiversity of the forests they are in,
3. nearly 35,000 ha forest restoration zones (both active and passive restoration) were established to restore the ecological functions of the forests,
4. significant efforts have been made to reduce dependence on forest resources and to improve living conditions of the local population: 25,000 households benefited from fifteen alternative agricultural practices that have been disseminated (on average, 17% of all households have adopted these alternative practices),
5. the construction of four irrigation projects helped to develop an additional 750 ha of arable land, and
6. 1,000 ha of land have been replanted with fast growing tree species to ensure the future needs for fuel wood and wood for construction can be met.

Overall, the results are good, but we also realise that much work remains to be done to strengthen the benefits that still need to be reinforced. We are grateful that Air France has decided to continue its support for WWF and GoodPlanet for a second phase, beginning in January 2013. Other donors could possibly be associated with Air France to finance this second phase.

«Approximately 5% of the country's forest surface
Allometric equations specifically developed for the Malagasy forest»

Maminiaina Rasamoelina

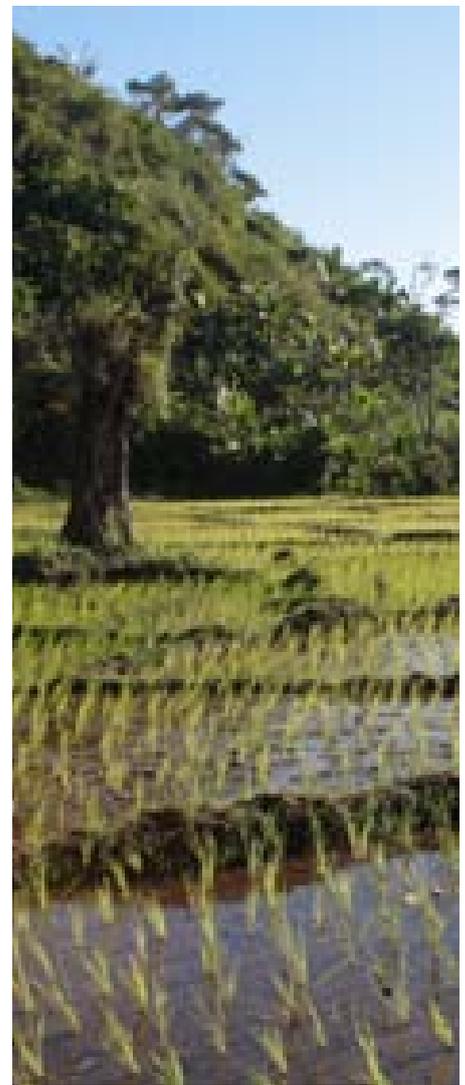
WWF Taolagnaro: Planting 3,000 Seedlings – a Day of Reforestation.

500 people attended a reforestation event organized by the local WWF office. The event, on Feb. 11, 2012 at Camp Penal Ranomainty, was also attended by the former Minister of Environment and Forests, Joseph Randriamiarisoa. This was the official launch of a reforestation campaign at district level.

Approximately 3,000 seedlings of eight different species were planted on 2 ha of land within the 65 ha of forest that had been burned down in Nov. 2011. Fifteen entities and representatives of six grassroots communities in Ankodida took part in this reforestation day.

The 3,000 plants were purchased at the nursery of Ambatovinaky, belonging to Mr. Maurice. As a restoration pioneer in his region, he was supported by the Southern Cross Association. The former Minister and his team who visited his property praised his hard work and progress in reforestation. "The former minister was impressed with the reforestation work done by the villagers and hoped that we will support the scaling up of this successful model of Ankodida on a national level. He also asked that the funds available for reforestation should be used to bring technical support to communities and organizations willing to invest in reforestation in all regions" stated Tiana Ramahaleo, Coordinator of the Species and Conservation Science Programme of WWF.

Mialisoa Randriamampianina



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Management and governance reform hardly needed for a sustainable tuna fishery in the Indian Ocean

Tuna stocks are increasingly threatened worldwide, due to overfishing and lack of effective management. In the Indian Ocean, difficulties in efficiently managing highly migratory tuna stocks at regional level are evident as some key stocks seem either to be near maximum sustainable fishing levels (Bigeye tuna) or very close to being overfished (Yellowfin tuna).

The Western Indian Ocean (WIO) represents around 20% of tuna catches worldwide. WWF MWIOPO, working in collaboration with WWF's Coastal East Africa Initiative, is therefore actively following the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) debates and lobbying for equitable and sustainable fishing practices.

At a more local level, WWF MWIOPO has committed to support the island states to improve their capacity for the sustainable and profitable management of their tuna resources. We recently co-organized, several regional meetings gathering WIO countries and regional organizations, facilitate exchanges and coordination on tuna governance and management issues.

Numerous resolutions taken were adopted, for regional actions, that will contribute to improving tuna management in the region if adequately implemented. An economic evaluation of tuna resources in the region that we have commissioned will also help the WIO States to have a better understanding of the value and dynamics of the tuna fisheries in the region in light of future bilateral or regional negotiations.

Some Indian Ocean countries are already showing commitment to improve tuna management at local and regional levels. For example the Maldives, that have recently become a member of IOTC, are currently having their skipjack pole and line fishery assessed for MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certification. They are therefore strongly engaging in IOTC to promote good management measures. A Maldives delegation also visited WWF MWIOPO last year to exchange about ideas that would source best solutions for the tuna fisheries. This kind of dynamism might play an important role in future tuna management and governance changes.

Didier Fourgon



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Fight against animal traffic: Androy mobilises for the radiated tortoise

On February 13th, 2012, a consultation workshop on the radiated tortoise was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MEF) in Ambovombe, in the South of Madagascar. The event objective of the workshop was to develop a joint action plan to stop the poaching and trafficking of tortoises, and ensure viable populations in their natural environment. There was agreement to introduce of a "Lilin-tany", a rite of sanctification of land making the tortoise fady (a kind of taboo).

The police of the Androy region, the legal and judicial authorities, and civil society were invited to unite their efforts to fight against traffic of this species.

An information system will be established for the detection of infractions that will enable rapid response to incidents and dismantle the traffic networks.

Tiana Ramahaleo



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Sustainable management: Fuel wood, a market chain in the process of development in the South West

In Madagascar, fuelwood constitutes 80% of the domestic energy use for cooking. Its low costs compared to other energy sources makes it attractive to the majority of the population that is less well off; Mostly in the form of charcoal it provides over 85% of the energy needs of urban households. Thus fuelwood supply accounts for nearly 90% of wood levies on Malagasy forests. Rapid forest destruction has been observed in southwestern Madagascar due to uncontrolled exploitation to meet fuelwood needs. The annual consumption of Toliara's 35,000 urban households is estimated at 325,000 tons of dry wood per annum which is equal to 23,214 ha of forest surface every year. In face of this situation, addressing the fuelwood issue and mitigating its impacts on forest loss have been part of WWF MWIOPO's challenges since 2008.

A workshop held in Tulear on December 19th, 2011, jointly organized with the Regional office of Environment and Forests of the Atsimo Andrefana Region, marked the kick-off of the FAO-funded WWF project included in the ACP/FLEGT program (a four-year initiative funded by the European Commission and implemented by FAO) entitled, "Regulation of the Wood Energy Sector in Southwest Madagascar". The program aims to develop a sustainable fuel-wood management regime in the South West of Madagascar by transforming the system along Route N9 and N7 into an operational and financially viable market for the communities.

The workshop helped to inform all stakeholders about Wood Energy, the FAO-funded WWF project. The active participation of local stakeholders marked the workshop, including community leaders, charcoal producers, collectors and transporters as well as local government institutions. Before WWF's SEESO project began in 2006, the activities in the wood energy sector lacked organization and a governing body, which was a concern to these key actors. Given the economic and environmental impacts, stakeholders expressed interest and support for a structured and controlled market where they would be able to manage and preserve the wood resources of their lands.

The communities, particularly that had not been included in the prior SEESO program, insisted that the processes should be generalized throughout the South West. Policymakers, both at central and regional levels support the need to implement for a system for the sustainable management of forest resources and a sustainable supply of fuel wood in Toliara

Rina Andrianarivony

A study of Environmental Impact: A guide for Biofuel projects

Through the collaboration of the National Office of Environment (ONE) and WWF, the UNDP-funded project, "Promotion of the sustainable production of agrifuels" published a Guide in December 2011 on how to conduct an environmental impact assessment for Agrifuel projects. This guide is based on international best practices and standards for agrifuels adapted to fit into the legal, regulatory, and administrative provisions of the national territory.

This guide will enable a better understanding of environmental and social issues in the agrifuel sector and will help the leaders of this sector to take them into account in the implementation of investment projects. "By following this guide, exporters will take an important step to facilitate access to international markets and funding, given the general trend towards agrifuel sustainability certification. For products destined to the domestic market, it is essential to develop win-win scenarios for all the aspects of the industry," states Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana, Conservation Director of WWF MWIOPO.

In 2010, WWF proposed a world scenario for supply in energy to be 100% renewable by 2050. This scenario advocates the use of agrifuels as one of these green energies, but raises an important condition: their production must comply with the rules of sustainable development. In particular, it must be produced in a way that preserves the environment, promotes social development and contributes to economic development. In order to attain this scenario and conditions for sustainable agrifuel production, WWF works both at international and national levels

Mialisoa Randriamampianina



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Editors:

- Didier Fourgon
- Jeanneney Rabearivony
- Malika Virah-Sawmy
- Maminiana Rasamoelina
- Manantsoa Andriantahina
- Martina Lippuner
- Mialisoa Randriamampianina
- Ndranto Razakamanarina
- Rick Hughes
- Rina Andrianarivony
- Sonia Razafimahazo
- Tiana Ramahaleo

Translators:

- Helen Doherty
- Hye-Yeon Jang
- Pierre Loty
- Rojotiana Ratovona

Contacts:

WWF MWIOPO
Près lot II M 85 ter Antsakaviro,
101 Antananarivo
tél: +261 20 22 348 85
tél: +261 34 49 888 04
email: wwfrep@moov.mg
website: www.wwf.mg



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Northern Highlands: For sustainable management of ecosystems

The “Northern Highlands”, identified by WWF MWIOPO as a priority landscape, includes Anjanaharibe South and Manongarivo special reserves, the national parks of Marojejy and Tsaratanana, the Betaolana forest corridor as well as the Tsaratanana-Ambohimirahavy forests and the NAP (new protected area) of Bemanevika. Expanding approximately 2,262,000 ha, this landscape is one of the 10 largest forest blocks in Madagascar, and is known for its diversity of habitats which acts a genetic reservoir, exceptionally rich wildlife and flora, strong resilience in the face of climate change, and water systems that supply both the Eastern and Western sides of the highlands.

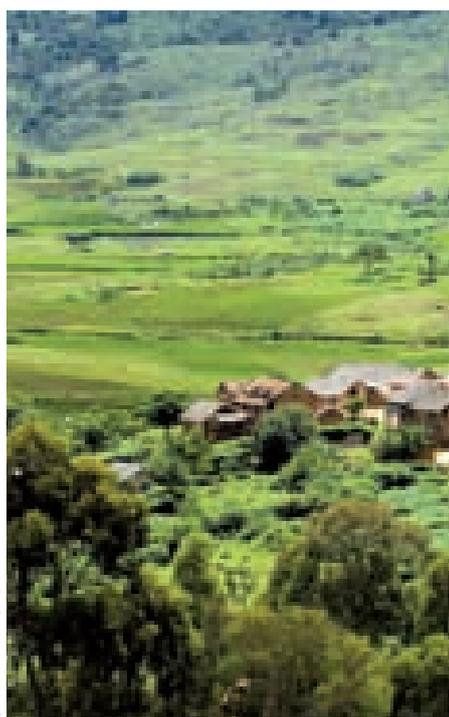
WWF’s vision for the Northern Highlands is to maintain the ecological and biological integrity of the landscape. The heart of the program involves the development and implementation of management plans as well as participatory management of natural resources for the communities and various entities that are involved. Another essential goal, to enable local communities to achieve this sustainable management of natural resources, is to transition from a subsistence economy to a market economy of local communities that will (co-)manage resources in a sustainable manner.

Over the next five years, from 2012 to 2016, WWF will focus on developing solid understanding and knowledge of both the ecological and socio-economic management priorities for the landscape for sustainable management. This will shape the development of realistic objectives, strategies and monitoring programs supporting the local actors to improve the effective management of the landscape and a sustainable development of the area.

The long term goals for the Northern Highlands from present to 2025 include:

(1) the conservation of the physical and ecological integrity of the forest; (2) a consistent and coordinated vision of the actions of the different stakeholders for the Northern Highlands; (3) a shared vision of development and land use that balances conservation issues and sustainable development; (4) the transition from a subsistence economy to a market economy in the majority of communities, (5) development of a scientific and socio-economic database for the landscape, updated and accessible to all partners for landscape management; and (6) advancing the knowledge of the biodiversity of the landscape and how that contributes to strengthening natural ecological processes.

Jeanneney Rabearivony
Manantsoa Andriantahina



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End of the IYF: Discussion on forest management

The International Year of the Forest came to an end with a panel discussion held at the Café de la Gare on December 28, 2011. Participating in the discussion were Fara Lala Razafy, WWF ecoregional leader of Ala Atsinana, Lydia Raharimaniraka, Director of the Development of Natural Resources within the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Gerard Rambeloarisoa, Business Development manager of Mada Woodlands and finally, Andry Andriamanga, National Coordinator of Alliance Voahary Gasy, an environmental civil society organization.

This meeting was an opportunity to invite the public to discuss certain aspects of forest conservation, including management and forest governance, forest policy and forest certification. “Madagascar now has approximately 12 million ha of forest. Although the rate of deforestation is declining, it still remains high. This leads us to support, in a strategic manner, forest management and forest resources, through the transfer of management to grassroots communities,” said Fara Lala Razafy, during the conference.

Throughout Madagascar, the management of 1.2 million ha of forest has been transferred to grassroots communities, nearly 500,000 ha achieved with the support of WWF. “By regulating access to forests and forest resources, we make these forests more productive. We accept that these forests can only give us what they can,” stated Fara Lala Razafy.

Mialisoa Randriamampianina

Transfer of forest management: The State renews its trust in the COBAs of Vondrozo

Grassroots Communities in Madiorano, Andasibe, Antevongo, Mazavalalana, Ankazomaneno and Antesojo in the district of Vondrozo renewed their forest management contract with the State in December 2011. The renewal binds their commitments for another decade.

“The officers of the regional direction of forests came to assess the way they manage the natural resources placed under their responsibility and they were satisfied with the results,” says Bastian Tsiverimanana, socio-organizer of WWF Vondrozo who accompanied these Grassroots communities in their work.

“The evaluation of the grassroots communities addressed several issues including, compliance with the specifications, the existence and implementation of a management plan, and a ‘Dina’ or collective agreement used to settle potential conflicts between villagers. These technical points are used as benchmarks but it is also important to see the changes in the life and mentality of the community members as a result of the transfer of forest management,” says Bastian Tsiverimanana.

Vondrozo is located 82 km from Farafangana. This town has a population of 95,000 spread throughout 16 rural communities and is at the heart of a forest corridor called South-East Corridor of Fandriana-Vondrozo. The whole corridor stretches on 499,600 ha and is spread over a band that is 400 km long and 5 to 10 km wide. The corridor of Vondrozo is an integral part of that band and is 70 km long.

For these farmers in the Southeast, who are really dependent on the forest on a daily basis, the decision to renew the contract goes beyond a mark of confidence: “It is comforting to be able to show the younger generations the wisest approach to ensure their future,” says Jean-Francois, a farmer from Madiorano. Jean-Francois embodies the way of living and ideology that grassroots communities have adopted over time: “The forest is useful for people and people should protect the forest”.

Mialisoa Randriamampianina



Climate Change: Major Commitments of COP 17

The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Durban from December 11th to 28th, 2011. This international meeting revived discussions and joint decisions to limit climate change and methods to cope with its unavoidable impacts.

The parties of COP 17, including the United States, were engaged in a process leading to the adoption of a legally binding agreement in 2015 (COP 21) to be effective in 2020. A new ad hoc group was established to lead this process. Countries affected by the Kyoto Protocol also agreed to a second commitment phase from 2013 for an addition 5 or 8 years. Countries that were interested in the treaty were invited to submit their emission reduction goals in May 2012.

Several technical decisions that were initiated in Cancun were honored at COP 17. The adoption of the terms and formulation of the National Adaptation Plan including the development and implementation will be funded among others, by the Fund for Least Developed Countries (FLDC). Others include the establishment of the Green Climate Fund which will become functional later this year in 2012. Korea, Germany and Denmark also pledged to support the start-up costs of the fund. In regards to long-term financing, no decisions on the sources for 100 billion USD were made.

What are Madagascar's main responses to climate change?

Madagascar was evaluated by an international consultancy firm as the third most vulnerable country in the world after Bangladesh and India. In 2010, Madagascar developed the National Policy to fight against climate change.

National Actions of Appropriate Attenuation: In 2010, Madagascar submitted to the convention, a list of mitigation actions appropriate for the socioeconomic status of the nation. Considered actions were divided into categories of: energy, forestry, energy / waste, agriculture and transportation.

Action Plan: In 2006, with funding from the FLDC, Madagascar developed its national action program on adaptation to climate change in order to identify priority actions that require immediate funding. Until now, NAPA has not yet had funding for the implementation of priority actions. Decisions made in Durban encourage countries to develop their National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for both the short and long term. The development and implementation of the NAP from the least developed countries are favored for funding from the FLDC.

Agriculture: Since 2010, the agriculture sector of Madagascar has had a national adaptation strategy. Several initiatives to strengthen the resilience of crops have already been undertaken, placing Madagascar as a leader in this field. The strategies are more oriented towards the promotion of "smart farming" for better synergy of mitigation and adaptation.

REDD+: In 2010, Madagascar developed its proposed measures for the readiness of Madagascar (R-PP), a document that describes the process for developing a national REDD+ strategy. The R-PP is fueled by the experiences of five demonstration projects of REDD +. The type of financing promoted by REDD+ projects is based on the carbon market. The feasibility of other types of financing still requires extensive research.

Mialisoa Randriamampianina



Earth Hour 2012: The “Fatana Mitsitsy”, honored

The “Fatana Mitsitsy”, an improved cookstove, was at the center of the celebration of Earth Hour 2012, Madagascar.

It is an innovation that blends the realities of the Malagasy people who use wood energy, especially coal, to supply 80% of their domestic energy needs. The supplies of wood used for energy is responsible for 90% of wood removed from forests. By spreading the use of the “Fatana Mitsitsy” to the majority of the Malagasy people who do not have access, or cannot afford to use gas on a daily basis, it is possible to achieve a significant reduction in coal consumption and consequently, a reduction in deforestation.

During the celebration of Earth Hour 2012, WWF and its partners organized a showcase on the “Fatana Mitsitsy”, from March 30-31st, 2012 at the Esplanade (Analakely). In addition to the exhibition, the event also demonstrated the significant savings of charcoal with the use of an appropriately set up “Fatana Mitsitsy”, which is up to 65% compared to conventional stoves. This showcase was an opportunity to show the economic value of the improved stove whose effectiveness in terms of energy saving is technically and scientifically proven.

Each year, Earth Hour takes place on the last Saturday of March and involves approximately 5,251 cities in 135 countries. For one hour, these cities participated by unplugging non-essential appliances as a symbolic gesture to participate in a common cause-to-reduce energy consumption in the world, with quick and easy gestures.

In Madagascar, the cities of Antananarivo and Toliara participated in this joint action by turning off the lights in landmark and historic buildings for an hour. The symbolic extinguishing of lights occurred in the capital city, in the City Hall, the Queen’s Palace called Manjakamiadana; the city stadium and sports cultural center in Mahamasina as well as in the big hall of the train station in Soarano. Restaurants also participated in this community, nationwide, and worldwide event by organizing candlelit dinners during the Earth Hour.

Mialisoa Randriamampianina



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A Green School Year

Earth Hour is a symbolic action. The real challenge is to maintain this action throughout time. High school students of Antananarivo and Toliara are participating in this challenge with the support of WWF: the schools will participate in a major reforestation project that will operate until 2013. School leaders and teachers are trained by WWF to assist students in the creation and maintenance of small gardens as of March 2012.

Throughout the year, they will be responsible of taking care of the seeds and plants that they have, to be able to participate in a major reforestation project in 2013.

The reforestation project communicates a strong involvement and contribution by students and schools to their respective communities, and delivers the message that reforestation is not only a symbolic action but a commitment in time to be tackled in the early years. The goal of this project is to have ten trees planted per child.

Mialisoa Randriamampianina



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Interview: Reducing the consumption of coal with an improved stove (“Fatana Mitsitsy”)

WWF: You have been using the “Fatana Mitsitsy” for how many years now? How do you find the improved stoves?

Holy Randriamampianina: I have been using the “Fatana Mitsitsy” for a very long time. I use it to cook family meals. The “Fatana Mitsitsy” really lightens the family budget and the budget allocated for daily expenses in cooking has decreased. I use a quarter of the charcoal that is used with conventional stove, so instead of buying two bags of coal monthly, I buy one: it is a significant and clearly visible reduction. Savings are always good!

WWF: What suggestions would you give, as a user of the “Fatana Mitsitsy”?

Holy Randriamampianina: The quality of the “Fatana Mitsitsy” varies from piece to piece. I have purchased Fatana that did not last for more than three months – they would break easily and ultimately didn’t offer economical savings on charcoal. My suggestion would be to standardize the qualities of the stoves so that mothers like myself may choose the right Fatana easily.

WWF: Do you also use other fuels for cooking?

Holy Randriamampianina: Yes, I also use clean coal, as they call it. This fuel is made from cow dung, but is not always available in town. In fact, the use of fuels such as briquettes and rice husks is also very economical and very practical. These fuels make improved stoves more efficient and economic: less coal used for the same cooking time and the same cooking quality.

WWF: The use of the “Fatana Mitsitsy”: it is more of an economic concern than an environmental concern?

Holy Randriamampianina: I do not think these two are necessarily different. Regardless of its expenses, it is important to live in a rational manner, which is having consideration for the future of our land and our families. For most of us, it is necessary to use energy such as fuel and electricity. However, other energy expenditures can be reduced. Through the use of these improved stoves, I am able to teach my children to adopt a down-to-earth vision of daily energy saving.

Mialisoa Randriamampianina



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From pink pigeons to Oxford to Madagascar

From a young age, I spent most of my time in trees and with animals. I had then never heard the concept of conservation until one day when I was 16, while walking about the bush in the gorges in Mauritius I met a group of young English volunteers hurrying about on the track of something seemingly exciting. I followed them in a search that steered the direction of my life. We are looking for pink pigeons, the volunteers said. I dared say to them what I heard from school, that all native birds were extinct, for the fear of the end of the excitement and anticipation. Whilst many species were indeed extinct, many were also on the edge of extinction I was to discover when we discovered a pair of pink pigeons gently cooing to each other.

From there on, I was lucky to be able to work in forest field stations enjoying the pleasures of nature and work in conservation. Being avid to learn, I went on also to work in conservation in New Zealand and the Seychelles for a year.

I was awarded the Chevening Scholarship, targeted at talented young people already engaged in a career, to further my training as a conservationist in Oxford. As ever in my life, one thing led to the other. In Oxford, I was awarded another conservation grant, from Rufford this time, to do conservation research in Madagascar, which led to my PhD on the long-term ecology of the littoral forests.

Working for WWF in Madagascar was the cornerstone of a long passionate affair with conservation. The challenges are daunting in Madagascar and the path is not easy. As Terrestrial Programme Coordinator, I ensured that important steps were made in the right direction. Taking time to know what one is protecting and what are the drivers and opportunities, as well as reflecting regularly on how, what and why we do the activities we are engaged in, remain critical for our success, faced with such challenges here, scarce resources and challenging enabling conditions.

Malika Virah-Sawmy





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Takhtajania perrieri

Takhtajania perrieri is a small tree that grows from 6 to 9 m. It is a member of one of the oldest families of flowering plants (Angiosperms), known as *Winteraceae*. It does not have many branches and its leaves are simple, alternate, persistent, and obovoid-shaped. The flowers of *Takhtajania perrieri* have a strong aromatic odor and a burning taste. They are small and dark red, with petals that have narrow white margins. *T.perrieri* also has 12 stamens, with a unilocular ovary and two carpels that are open and welded together.

Takhtajania perrieri produce fruits in January and have a unique morphology – the fruits are red, ovoid-shaped and measure approximately 1 cm in diameter. *Takhtajania* seeds are very fragile and easily perishable. The fruits and seeds can be disseminated by wind, birds, animals, or by ocean currents. In the Anjanaharibe-Sud special reserve, this plant only grows on a humus-rich soil, in elevations above 1100 m, on ridges and steep slopes. The total population of *Takhtajania perrieri* today is estimated to be 18,500.

From Perrier to Takhtajan

Two specimens of this plant were collected in 1909 by Henri Perrier of Bâthie in Manongarivo, at an altitude of 1700 m. In 1963, the plant was ranked as the first family member of *Winteraceae* and was named *Bubbia perrieri* in honor of Bâthie Perrier. A few years later, two other botanists, Baranova and Leroy revised this classification specifying that the membership of this plant belonged in another taxon, called *Takhtajania*. It was then renamed in honor of an Armenian taxonomist named Armen Takhtajan. Since the 1970s, several botanists have tried, in vain, to locate this plant in the region of Manongarivo. It was not until 1994 that it was rediscovered in Anjanaharibe-Sud, and again in 2000, on the Masoala peninsula.

Mialisoa Randriamampianina

New opportunities

An innovative model of concerted management and development integrating the migrants with no lands in the traditional management system (FISONG 2012)

Donor: AFD
Duration: 3 years
Status: Concept submitted

Establishment of a concerted and sustained management and planning model in order to master the hatsake through a system of community governance taking into account the dynamics of migration, and improved agricultural practices..

Access to WATER: for biodiversity and well-being on the Mahafaly Plateau

Donor: IRCD (International Development Research Centre)
Duration: 3 years
Status: Concept submitted

The Water Access project aims to identify resources, needs and practices of people living around the Mahafaly Plateau in the field of water, especially drinking water. Based on these studies, technologies and management methods to improve sustainable access to water for these populations will be defined and implemented. The assumption that the project wants to test is that improved access to water will limit human pressure on the environment.

Turn Coal to Gold: 100% coverage of improved stoves

Donor: WWF Switzerland
Duration: 3 years
Status: Concept submitted

As alarming deforestation in South-West Madagascar caused by the exploitation of fuelwood continues uncontrolled, this project tackles the urgent reduction of fuelwood consumption in Toliara where uptake and usage of energy-saving cooking stoves is still too low, through a work towards full coverage of energy-saving stoves.

Sonia Razafimahazo

New projects

Capitalization and Methodology for decentralized intervention in Madagascar to prevent and manage conflicts between Artisanal and Small -scale Mining (ASM) and Protected Areas and Critical Ecosystems (PACE)

Start date: February 2012

Planned end date: June 2012

Donor: World Bank via PGRM

Summary:

Due to the high need to develop a decentralized response plan to artisanal mining rushes in the Madagascar context, this project will try to capture the PGRM programme experience related to ASM conflicts with protected areas and prevention and management of mining rushes from a study in order to evaluate lessons learned on artisanal mining as it conflicts with protected areas and create a draft Rush Management Tool that includes a consolidated methodology for decentralized interventions to address and effectively manage ASM rushes in and around protected areas in Madagascar.

Sonia Razafimahazo

Meet the MWIOPO's proofreaders/translators

With a growing output in communication materials, it was time for MWIOPO's communication department to find new and innovative solutions to make sure our texts are on a high level both in English and French. With the help of WWF Internationals Explore Volunteer Programme we found our precious three proofreaders/ translators who live in three different corners of the world.

They can do real magic in no time: for more than a year now they have invested countless hours into translating factsheets, booklets, proofread press releases and also "Newsbites" that you are reading right now. It's time to say thank you – You are great and we very much appreciate your contribution to our conservation efforts!

My name is **Hye-Yeon Jang** and I volunteer for MWIOPO to help connect and inspire people around the world by communicating environmental issues and successes of Madagascar. I am 24 years old, from Nova Scotia, Canada, and studying Veterinary Medicine at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island. Since volunteering for MWIOPO, I have been enlightened with the unbelievable biodiversity of Madagascar and the innovative and inspirational stories of the locals!



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My name is **Helen Doherty** from the UK, I am 25 and study Education and modern languages. I've always been very interested in conservation and the environment, and I'm fascinated by Madagascar, and its rich biodiversity. The opportunity to act as a proof reader and translator for MWIOPO seemed like the perfect way to incorporate my love of conservation, and interest in sustainable development with the use of my language skills. I really enjoy helping out, and I'm continually learning new things like for example what a zebu is! I also learnt lots interesting Malagasy words, which I couldn't translate!

I am **LOTY Pierre Jean-Daniel** and I am a 31 years old Cameroonian. I studied demography. My work at WWF Mada serves as a wonderful opportunity to express my commitment to deal responsibly with our global home. I can also develop my proofreading skills. I have learnt how much it takes to support conservation goals: Communication skills to raise awareness and provide feedback, project planning and monitoring, fund raising, field work and, of course, translating. It is beautiful to realize that conservation involves so many skills besides conservation. Volunteering for WWF actually helps me fulfilling my dreams.



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Martina Lippuner

WWF MWIOPO IN NUMBERS

11

11 offices in Madagascar

+200

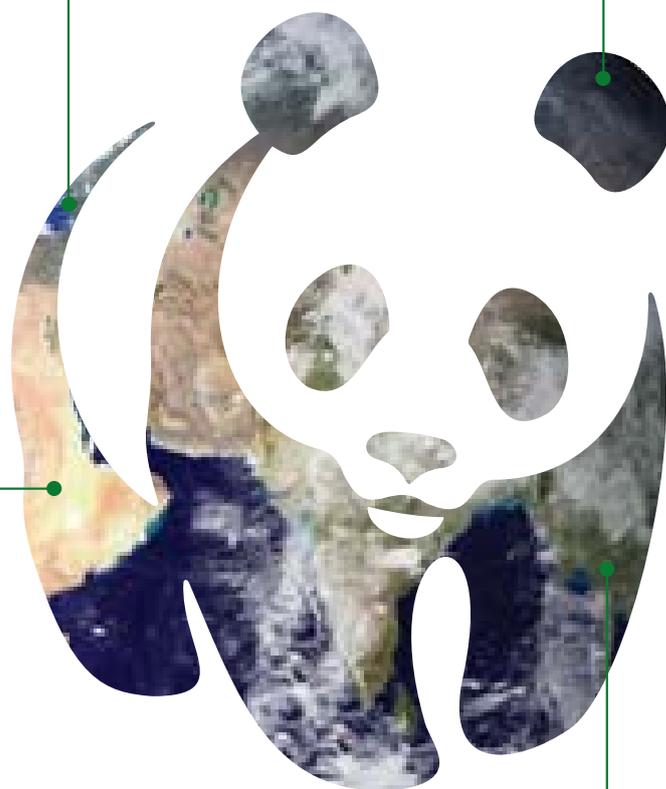
More than 200 staff members in Madagascar

1963

WWF MWIOPO started its activities in 1963

+30

More than 30 projects in Madagascar and the 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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WWF MWIOPO, Près lot II M 85 Ter Antsakaviro

B.P. 738, 101 Antananarivo

Tél: +261 20 22 348 85/+261 20 22 304 20

Tél: +261 34 49 888 05/+261 34 49 888 06

Fax: +261 20 22 348 88

Email: wwfrep@moov.mg

website: www.wwf.mg