



WWF

NEWSLETTER

MWIOPO

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Half way through 2012, and the Madagascar political crisis continues; in fact, appears to be exacerbated. Let us hope that what we are seeing now is truly 'the darkest hour just before the dawn', and that Madagascar will finally emerge from the prolonged crisis within the next 12 months. Last quarter I talked about all the great successes in the past year, despite the crisis, but here I feel a need to bring that into stark reality,

and explain why the situation is ever more challenging.

The last Minister of Environment was removed by the Council of Ministers. The reasoning appeared to be largely tied up with controversial actions over the loosening of restrictions on sale and export of forestry products. The decrees in question related to forestry issues, and there were concerns raised as to the potential impact on both illegal precious wood harvest and about easing restrictions on the export of raw wood and charcoal, when the cutting of forests for fuel wood to serve local needs already far outpaces any efforts of reforestation. Nevertheless, no new Minister has been appointed; rather the Ministry of Environment is currently under the direction of the Prime Minister but it is unclear whether an official 'handover' has taken place with the old Minister.

With this as background, it's not surprising that early in the year early progress on the plan to close the doors on illegal harvesting of precious woods ground to a halt. While the Prime Minister has now asked for external assistance on this matter, in a letter to the World Bank, no progress has been made to date.

The IUCN primate group just held an informal meeting in Madagascar to review the status of lemurs, and announced that the red list status of nearly all lemur species needed to be raised. The major factor continues to be loss and fragmentation of habitat, as forests are cleared and land converted so that the available habitat continues to narrow toward what has some level of protected status. Gladly the area under protection has continued to increase in line with the 'Durban Vision' despite the crisis! The ability and will to effectively protect these areas, however, is diminished in the political and financial situation.

WWF recently learned of a significant demand for sea turtle shells, in SW Madagascar, allegedly being driven by a Chinese buyer. With our support, the local policy were able to make the first several arrests in an effort to stop this flow, which has driven fishermen all along the coast to actively fish for marine turtles. The illegal harvesting of wildlife (turtles, tortoises, reptiles, etc.) for illegal trade and local consumption clearly continues at elevated levels in this period. While the Ministry of Fisheries had requested WWF assistance in advance of the negotiations

of the new fisheries partnership agreement with the European Union, the talks were rushed through without our assistance and we were not informed until the final day of the negotiations, which only lasted one week. While we haven't received a copy of the final agreement, the figures quoted in the press indicate that it is largely similar to the previous agreement in terms of price (~100 euros/ton between EU and Industry Payments), and other partners in Madagascar have already raised [questions](#) about this deal.

The rush on sapphires and rubies in the area around Didy, in the Ankeniheny-Zahamena forest corridor, has gone largely unanswered. Estimates on numbers of people in the forest range from 30,000 to 70,000 people, fueled by a good number of largely Sri Lankan gem buyers. These areas are not well serviced, even where there are roads, and many of the people in the forests are multiple days' walk away from the road, so the pressure on the environment of this boom in population – much less the impacts of living and digging in the forest areas – is tremendous. The government only just responded to a request from the Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Environment, submitted months ago, with an initial military / mine police intervention. However, no real progress was made, and the local authorities are loath to halt the rush – irrespective of its legality or the long-term impacts on the environment – because the short term financial needs are so acute and pressing and even the limited returns they get from the mining activities are welcome in their budgets.

One reason why there is not much progress in Didy on the mining is an issue of prioritization, as there is a burgeoning issue of brigandry in the south east where military forces and civilians were recently killed in a conflict with 'dahalo'. This, of course, has drawn high attention from the government. Our office, and partners like CARE and WFP, has had to work around these areas, avoiding them or suspending activities in light of the insecurity, meaning that critical support can't reach these extremely underprivileged areas.

Our strong partnerships with Ministries of Environment, Mining, Energy, etc., continue to function – but even at the Ministers' level they admit it is not clear how much they can accomplish in the current political, social and financial environment. The Electoral Commission hinted at wanting to have elections in November, as there is great pressure to move quickly, while the recent UN mission recommended a minimum of 11 months of preparation to have even the semblance of proper electoral process. The best case at this stage seems to be if everyone agreed on the proposed UN calendar, and made serious efforts to put in place the necessary actions for elections in May/June 2013.

But it is becoming increasingly clear that, sooner or later, something will have to give. . . . Meanwhile all environmental actors desperately need support to 'hold the fort' while we wait and hope that the election process will begin to move forward and the Malagasy people can find a way out of this quagmire.

Rick Hughes

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Rio conference: diverging ideas

The last global summit held in Rio (June 2012) gathered some 40,000 guests but from WWF's perspective ([Rio+20 Common vision- Assessment, 28 June 2012](#)), the official declaration of Rio+20 sadly has no visionary leadership and commitment for the urgent needs of the planet. Indeed, even though the 193 participating countries agreed on the definition and the need to adopt a green economy for a more sustainable development, it is still difficult to conciliate the opinion (and therefore the development support) of the developed countries and that of the developing ones on its implementation.

Among other debates, the need to redefine growth to ensure sustainable development has been recognized in order to go beyond the GDP and to integrate the value of nature in the macroeconomic accounting. Nevertheless, the document contains a strong and positive note on oceans, and particularly on a commitment to apply a systemic approach for the management of activities having real impacts on the marine environment, to take action to reduce marine pollution and to reform fishery subsidies regimes.

Madagascar and the Western Indian Ocean region are not isolated from these commitments and have already started to work well before these declarations. During his speech, the President of the High Transitional Authority of Madagascar, Andry Nirina Rajoelina, stated: « ... A true policy oriented on regional and even continental stability , focusing on a green economy with particular concern for food security and the optimization of mining, fishery, energy and forest resources for the benefit of the population, are more than just commitments: they are duties ... ». While on the ground, the following works are already underway:

- Regional concertation on Climate Change Adaptations (ACCLIMATE),
- Development of the regional strategy for the conservation of marine and fishery ecosystems (WIOMER Strategy),
- Commitment of the Seychelles to Rio+20 to invest in nature (Annual use of debt recovery for climate change adaptation, Transforming 30% of their coasts into marine protected areas, etc...), etc ...,
- The Maldives announced the creation of the biggest marine reserve in the world (1192 islands) from 2017

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United Nations Conference

RIO+20, a conference in reverse

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 has finished without a clear answer to the challenges faced by our society today. The states have failed to commit themselves to firm and joint actions against the speeding environmental degradation and increasing social vulnerability.

WWF, through the Global Climate and Energy Initiative (GCEI), has been closely following, among other things, the discussions and negotiations concerning energy. This is the background against which MWIOPO has taken part in actions to promote access to sustainable energy, emphasising the work undertaken so far with a view to establish a sustainable production and consumption of wood fuel, and placing it in the context of the current mediation on framing the energy sector in Madagascar.

Although the view presented by WWF through the example of cases in India, Uganda and Madagascar is shared by many actors, especially organisations of civil society, the fact remains that there is no precise commitment in the final resolution on the subject even though the initiative of Ban Ki Moon « Sustainable Energy for all » is included in it.

After Rio the hope lies therefore in the possibility and the need for each country to set clear goals. Thus, the declaration of the President of the HAT during the summit of the Heads of State, mentioning the launch of a new energy policy and the use of renewable energy, is already a positive political signal. What matters now is following up on these challenges.

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Win a copy of the legendary "Paysages naturels de Madagascar" (in French)!

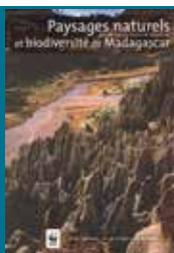
Dear readers

We are conducting a mini survey to improve our understanding about Newsbites' audience and what we can do to serve you better. Please let us know what you think; fill out our survey by clicking on [the following link](#).

It won't take more than 2 minutes, and if you complete the survey you will have a chance to win a copy of the legendary "Paysages naturels de Madagascar" (in French)! Thanks a million!



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Peer Review: From landscape to landscape ...

The cornerstone of the WWF conservation strategy for 2012-2025 is the landscape approach – discussed on all major conservation forums, even on Rio+20. But the application of this approach is still subject to constant improvement.

In that way the peer review from may 2012 has allowed the progress of analyses concerning the conservation targets, the threats and their causes. It has also helped to prepare a strategy draft for each priority landscape of WWF (Cap d'Ambre, Marojejy-Tsaratana corridor, Fandriana-Vondrozo corridor, Mandrare Basin, Mahafaly Plateau, Manombo-Fiherenana, Tsiribihina-Manambo Mangroves, Saya de Malha and Sapphire Sea Transnational Conservation Area).

From small-scale mining exploitation to the use of mangroves for charcoal production, through the constant threat of climate change, and the pursuing practice of shifting agriculture, and further up in the line the weakness of natural resources governance on Madagascar, or still the cooperation for management of high sea areas, we are facing important challenges from one landscape to the next. This is why the next stage would be to review these analyses with the key actors and together to define solid theories for change as well as mechanisms for common action and joint training.

As always the peer review was an occasion for our colleagues, dispersed to the four corners of the island, to exchange their experiences and update on new approaches and conservation tools. As a result two trainings were conducted – one on the standards of management of programs and WWF projects and one on climate change adaptation.

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World Environment Day 2012 in Toliara: Initiatives for a green economy

Like all the regions of Madagascar, the Southwest region celebrated the World Environment Day from 5 to 7 June 2012 with the theme « **Green economy: are you part of it?** »

Various events were conducted in Toliara to show the commitment of each and every person to promote an environmentally friendly development. The Southwest region is well-known for its rich biodiversity but also for the presence of important mining areas. However, the exploitation of these mineral resources should not be a threat to the biological wealth of the region but generate positive social impacts, to ensure a sustainable development.

During this celebration, WWF shared its experiences in environmental conservation by presenting the activities conducted in its three priority landscapes of the region as well as those of the Foot-print programme. Aware of the challenges of a green economy, the Head of Region highlighted the willingness and commitment of the State to move forward in this process, while stressing the importance of defining a common strategy which will be a synergy catalyst.

Various activities were organized during this celebration: a carnival with the participation of over 500 people including several Vintsy clubs (youth environmental clubs), exhibition stands for the technical executing partners (AGEX) and Regional Direction of Environment and Forests (DREF), a presentation of the green economy concept, as well as educational and sports events. Reflections on the theme of green economy continued at the Rio +20 conference in Brazil.

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Dugongs, the fabulous « sea cows»

Dugongs (*Dugong dugong*) are large grey mammals which spend their entire lives in the sea. Fully grown, they may be 3m long and weigh 400 kg. They have a thick layer of fat giving them a distinctly rotund posture, small paddle-like flippers positioned far forward on the body and a broad, flattened, powerful tail that resembles the tail of whale. They have nostrils near the top of their snouts. They are sometimes called 'sea cows' because they graze on seagrasses.

Though aquatic, the dugong breathes air through lungs and gives birth to live young. They are extraordinary in their ability to dive for food with fully inflated lungs and to stay underwater for as long as 15 minutes.

In Madagascar, you can see Dugongs in Nosy Hara – if you are very, very lucky!

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Climate Change: Nosy Hara, pioneer amongst marine protected areas

Protected Areas (PA) play a vital role against current and future climate change impacts. Through a collaboration between Madagascar National Parks and WWF, the marine protected area of Nosy Hara is the first one in Madagascar to start the integration of climate change aspects to its management tools.

This was a pioneering stage which tends to increase the resilience of this protected area in the future and to promote its crucial role in the adaptation and mitigation of climate change. WWF has thus developed a [document](#) collecting the efforts against climate change, exerted in this area, which will serve as an example to the managers of PA but especially to the System of Protected Areas of Madagascar (SPAM).

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Nosy Hara National Park

Madagascar presents a coastline of about 5,000 km with more than 250 islands, an important coral reef system on the west coast (among the largest in the world), and some of the most extensive mangrove areas in the Western Indian Ocean. Despite the goods and services provided by coastal and marine habitats as well as the high economic value of marine resources, these habitats are poorly managed. Indeed, in the 90's, only two Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) existed in Madagascar, namely Masoala marine park (10,000 ha) and Atafana Islands marine park (1,000 ha).

The 2003 Durban Vision triggered more marine conservation initiatives and WWF contributed to the creation of Nosy Hara National Park off the north western tip of Madagascar. It is one of the first large-scale marine protected areas (over 180,000 ha) in the country to ensure an effective and sustainable management of marine and coastal resources for the local communities' benefits.

The Nosy Hara Archipelago is made up of about 18 small islands surrounded by coral reefs. The area lies within Diana Region, some 30 km west of Antsirananana, the Region's capital. Apart from the tsingy (knife-like pinnacles spectacular landscapes), there is a mixture of rocky shores, beaches and mangroves, shallow waters, and extensive coral reef formations hosting valuable marine biodiversity and fisheries resources. Among the most intact reef areas in the country, a 2003 assessment identified 318 species of coral, 525 species of mollusk, and 463 species of reef fish. The Archipelago is also a globally important wetlands area (defined as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International, provisionally proposed as a World Heritage Site, likely to become a future Ramsar site). Nosy Hara is home to other important species, as well, such as *Brookesia micra* – the smallest known chameleon and among the smallest reptiles, small enough to stand on the head of a match.

The MPA obtained a temporary protection status in November 2007 for an area of 183,111 ha. The partnership between Madagascar National Parks and WWF allowed identifying, testing and implementing new and flexible management strategies integrating climate change considerations. Among the partnership achievements are: development of monitoring programs, strengthening key stakeholders' capacity to be effective marine/coastal resource managers, identification of feasible sustainable financing mechanisms, capacity building on coral reef resilience assessment, training on "the climate witness approach" and the SocMon methodology.

The work is ongoing, though, with more efforts needed to further strengthen monitoring programs and data analysis, build capacity of the MPA managers, assess conservation targets and social vulnerability to climate change and implement adaptation measures.

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Living Planet Report: A sick planet...

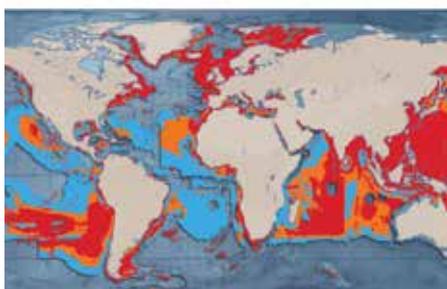
The overconsumption of natural resources leads to great pressures on our planet and our biodiversity and threatens the safety, health and well-being of our populations, according to the WWF's 2012 Edition of the [Living Planet Report](#). Produced in partnership with the London Zoological Society and the Global Footprint Network, this new report was launched on 15 June 2012, from the international space station, by the Dutch astronaut André Kuipers. Looking down on the earth from the international space station provides a unique perspective on the state of our planet.

The global index shows a 30% loss of biodiversity since 1970. The tropical areas, which are the most affected, show a loss of 60% in that period; this includes Madagascar and the Western Indian Ocean area. For the Big Island, this loss is seen through deforestation, estimated at 13 million acres every year. The destruction of this forest cover also leads to the destruction of habitats and ecosystems, which are home to unique and iconic fauna and flora species.

The [Living Planet Report](#) gives a number of solutions needed to reverse the trend and to keep our environmental footprint within the ability of our planet. « *Here are some possible ways: improving our consumption habits, valuing our natural assets, and establishing legal and political frameworks which promote the equal and sustainable access to food, drinking water and renewable energy for all* », states Richard Hughes, WWF's Regional Representative in Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean.

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New projects

MG0959 - "Improvement of the EU - Madagascar Fisheries Partnership Agreement"

Start date: March 2012

Planned end date: December 2012

Donor: WWF Sweden

Summary:

This project aims at supporting the Malagasy Fisheries Government in the context of upcoming negotiations, for improving their expertise and negotiating capacity as Madagascar suffers from a lack of expertise and negotiating capacity compared to the EU. This often results in unbalanced FPAs that benefit Long Distance Fishing Nations at the expense of equity and sustainability. This support will be crucial for ensuring that the upcoming agreement will be fair and sustainable, and is well integrated in our global WWF tuna strategy in the Western Indian Ocean.

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New opportunities

Sustainable agricultural and husbandry systems in the Manakaravavy watershed, the breadbasket of the Mahafaly plateau

Donor : Swiss Re

Duration : 2 years

Status : Concept submitted

This project's main objectives are to help the local community and authority of the Manakaravavy watershed to implement a management and protection system, to promote and adopt irrigation technologies and improve agricultural techniques in order to increase the production capacity of the Maniry Valley, part of the Manakaravavy watershed, and finally, to increase the capacity of grazing land within the watershed to accommodate transhumants from the Mahafaly plateau.

Protecting Mangroves and Strengthening Communities in Western Madagascar

Donor : Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust through World Wildlife Fund - US

Duration : 3 years

Status : Concept submitted

This project's purpose is to improve the protection of mangroves in four key sites of the Tsiribihina-Manambolo seascape in western Madagascar in ways that empower local communities to sustainably manage and benefit from their resources.

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Agreement on Mining Activities : An environmental and social reflex in the mining sector

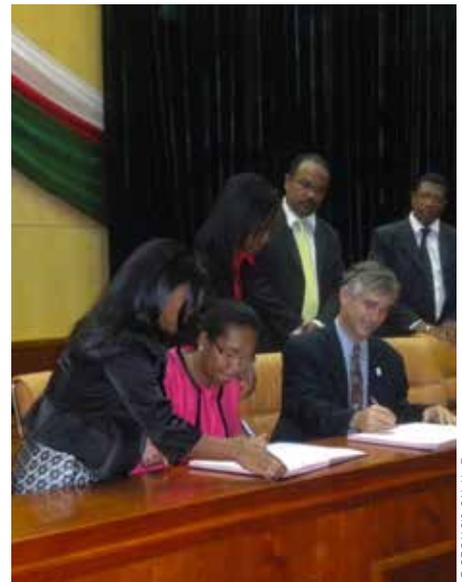
A new step forward was taken by WWF and the Ministry of Mines, as they signed a partnership agreement on May 16, 2012. This partnership focuses on the development of Malagasy extractive industries that are respectful of the well-being of the populations and environmental conservation. WWF will take action to support the establishment of good governance in the extractive industries, a sector which is expected to become a lever for Malagasy development.

Richard Hughes, WWF's Regional Representative said: *"Madagascar is a poor country and is in desperate need of economic development, and the geography is nearly as rich as the biodiversity. Mining interest is growing, in both the formal and non-formal sectors. We must act to ensure that this ongoing development is governed to ensure the maximum welfare for the Malagasy people and the nation, which includes the safeguarding of the natural heritage as the nation's renowned biodiversity and natural environment is a source of both sustainable economic development and critical environmental services. By signing this agreement, WWF and the Ministry of Mines commit to work together to realize this goal"*.

The initial focus of this agreement is to work together and lay the groundwork for conducting strategic environmental assessments of key target areas of high interest, bringing together scientific expertise and interests in diverse sectors to create rational long-term strategies that favor sustainable development.

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Big Crowds: Aerial surveillance did not go unnoticed

WWF joined a number of environmental organizations and hoisted its flag at the International Fair of Madagascar. In the midst of business and commercial stands, a green space was opened by the organizers to give the 35,000 visitors the opportunity to understand the economical and social life through a different perspective.

WWF did so by presenting the results of its aerial surveillance of protected areas project, which, by the way, has been awarded at the "Belgian Environment Prizes". Through large posters, WWF exposed photos taken from the air which allow to accurately locate illegal logging sites. This project is both practical and effective: it gives a clear picture of conservation achievements and can guide ground patrols to the infraction sites.

WWF also engaged people through two presentation and discussion sessions on other topics: the Holistic Programme of Forest Conservation, in collaboration with The GoodPlanet Foundation and Air France, and our latest international publication: the Living Planet report.

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The Yam (*Dioscorea alata*): a growth sector to be promoted to reduce dependence on natural resources in the Menabe region

Eating is a fundamental human right, but many people cannot afford it. Food insecurity is also identified as being one of the main causes of overharvesting of natural resources in Madagascar. Therefore, improving food production is one of the strategies for conserving biodiversity by reducing pressure on natural resources.

The production of yam is mostly known on the east coast of Madagascar. Currently, yam is mainly used for consumption (tubercles, raw material for baking and cooking ...). It is also used as a medicine, in cosmetics and in chemical industry. Technological studies for making biofuel from yam are underway and will be tested in Madagascar.

In the Menabe region, the production of yam has considerable potential for shortening the lean period and improving food security for the population. This potential is due both to its nutritional value and also its harvesting period, which generally occurs right within the lean period. Therefore, in collaboration with other regional and national actors, the NGO Saragna (a partner of WWF in promoting environmental good governance in the western zone) is doing research on the process of domestication of the yam in Menabe. This initiative aims at improving food security and income while preserving the environment.

In this initiative, the goal is to promote yam production and processing techniques, make sure there is a reliable seed supply, and organize the market. A project for setting up a demonstration site for the cultivation and processing of yam and providing seeds has been developed, to be discussed with financial partners.

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Broadcasting radio spots to optimize the impact of CBO capacity building

In order to optimize the impacts of the activities carried out with communities in the eastern moist forest corridor, the project "Civil Society Reinforcement" and the Association Tandavanala have agreed to strengthen communication actions through a radio station called « RAKAMA ». This latter has been chosen for its geographic coverage (it covers a very large part of the eastern slope of the corridor: districts of Ikongo, Vondrozo, Ambalavao, Ivohibe) and its very high audience ratings.

We knew that classic programs aired only once or twice a week failed to have the expected impacts. Therefore we regularly repeated radio spots per topic which has been considered more effective. Thanks to the mobilization of internal skills of the Association Tandavanala, key messages transformed into six radio spots have been designed.

These radio spots aimed at raising awareness on the different issues found in the field: the unique biodiversity of the forest corridor; issues with illegal gold-digging in the forest corridor; the roles and responsibilities of CBOs, authorities and stakeholders; the "Dina" and its importance...

These messages have been aired for 4 months and are available in audio format. The spots have been shared with partners for broadcasting through other radio stations in the region. Communities, authorities as well as partners have much appreciated this initiative.

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WWF & MAHALEO

If you want to add "Mahaleo Quarante ans" to your list of friends, Facebook will answer you that this user has reached the maximum number of friends on this social network. Never mind, one can never have enough friends to take care of Madagascar.

WWF and Mahaleo have a good chance of going part of the way together on board of the green caravan. Excellent opportunity to successfully combine 40 years of a legendary group with 50 years of a Panda having an air of a lemur.

The latest news will be coming soon, and until then, all ideas are very welcome!

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mahaleo

Education: When Vintsy clubs learn environmental values

Since 1992, WWF developed environmental clubs (Vintsy Clubs) in schools. 700 clubs are now active in primary, secondary and high schools and 13 within higher education. At first, the Vintsy club was groups of children and youth who loved nature and were willing to commit to preserve it. Over time, the club became an important way to provide environmental education to children and young people, and, through its environmental and educational activities, it became a means of educating the youth on the key environmental values.

The results of the assessment carried out in November 2011 until April 2012 confirmed a clear difference between students who are Vintsy clubs members and the non members. Parents and teachers witnessed how members acquired new values, adopted new attitudes and practices after joining the club.

The first environmental value acquired by the students is taking responsibility, which was confirmed by school leaders. For not only do the club members like taking responsibilities but they also feel responsible for their future, and the future of their environment.

Parents also noticed this change in the behavior of their children who have become more responsible, very active, and ready to take over a responsibility and are eager to help in doing things. This value of responsibility is an important environmental reflex in that fighting against environmental degradation requires each individual's spontaneous taking of responsibility.

The second value they acquired is solidarity and cooperation. These values enabled the students to consider others in their actions, to think about the future generations when consuming and using resources. Thus Vintsy clubs have acquired the reflex of giving advice to their peers, sharing their knowledge and skills to their friends and even to the public in general.

And last but not least is their respect for life, respect for others and for the environment. Club members themselves affirm that they do not kill animals just for fun and that they respect life in general.

Vintsy club members have become more respectful of others. From now on, Vintsy club members will give capital importance to the lives of others, to their living conditions, whether humans, plants or animals.

Moreover, acquiring these values led to a change in attitude and behavior in the Vintsy Club members, such as volunteering. They have learned to do things just because they like it, and not just to earn money.

Money is not necessarily the main source of motivation but it is rather the moral satisfaction of having achieved something for our planet. Indeed this moral satisfaction, added by the joy of seeing the benefits of the undertaken actions are the main benefits of the members, as they say.

Through their volunteering, Vintsy Club members have become more assiduous in class. They like studying and have become more eager to learn and gain new skills.

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Key numbers ...

19 000 000 tons of CO₂ emissions potentially avoided over 20 years (as part of Holistic Programme of Forest Conservation)

31 000 hectares of forest which were cleared in the South between 2000 and 2010

89% of lemurs of Madagascar are endangered (according to a IUCN recent study)

49 WWF MWIOPPO has 49 years of activities in Madagascar



© WWF MWIOPO/Martina Lippuner



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Earthbook - the world as we see it

Starting from the launch of the WWF's Living Planet Report on May 15 and running for 35 days until the Rio conference on June 20, Earth Book is the story of our world told through the eyes of its best storytellers – us.

It's an online collaboration of our experiences with nature, those things we cherish and those things we desperately want to protect for generations to come. We welcome you to read the stories from Madagascar and the committed people working at WWF.

« It took two years of raising awareness, sustainable forest management training and paper work to get the official contract signed in St. Anne last year. But now the people there can manage their forests themselves and do so in a sustainable way. We were all so proud to be there and confident that with this community based management model, the course for a more sustainable future was set. We will still provide over the two coming years. It's a 'learning by doing' approach and we reinforce their capacity to become sustainable resource users by working with them at eye-level. ».

Appolinaire Razafimahatratra

« When I was a boy it upset me to see people burning their pastures or cutting down forest. It felt like they were cutting my skin. I grew up in an area well-known for huge, out-of-control fires. One time a fire came within 10 metres of our home – we nearly lost everything. It really shocked me.

I already knew I wanted to be a forester, but that made me determined. Sometimes cutting down trees is the only job for local people. I help them to find other work, so the forest can be used sustainably – left intact for the wildlife and people that need it».

Laza Rakotondrasoa

« I am an expert in agricultural techniques. Already as a little girl I loved wandering around in our fields and watching the Indri lemur eat the coffee beans! Nowadays, meeting with farmers living on the edge of the forests is my favourite activity. Training villagers to adopt sound alternative agricultural practices is demanding! You cannot lie, and you have to respect their habits and. But I know how to motivate people to abandon slash-and-burn activities and they listen to me. I will do my best to save the forest in Madagascar so that my two little girls can still enjoy the fresh air it provides.».

Marie-Hélène Rasoalalanirina

« When I was eight years old I regularly bought WWF's Vintsy magazines at school. I started learning about nature and became passionate about the environment. Later, I studied Coastal Zone Management in the US. I loved seeing the coral reefs in Florida. But the ones in Madagascar are even nicer. We as WWF can contribute to human well-being and I love working in the field with local communities. I consider them as partners, they are involved and they make it happen! Ah, and I love research...When I am among parrotfish, butterflyfish and damselfish I am happy! They are important indicators of the reef system's health».

Vola Ramahery

« Most people in Ankilimalinike are farmers and struggle to get by. They depend heavily on the surrounding natural forests, mainly to produce charcoal. But you cannot just forbid people to extract wood. They need to cook, they need to feed their families! I am a father myself... But I can show these farmers an alternative to cutting down the unique spiny forest. I believe we can help Madagascar's rural poor to escape the poverty trap and conserve their forests for future generations. It is enormous challenge but it's a fight we must win at any cost. It's now or never».

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WWF MWIOPPO IN NUMBERS

11

offices in Madagascar

+200

staff members in Madagascar

1963

WWF MWIOPPO started its activities in 1963

+30

More than 30 projects undertaken 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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