# The Northern Highlands in numbers

### 670 000

Approximately 670 000 hectares of protected areas, with 10 protected areas declared with a final protection



Approximately 550,000 people living

around protected areas, 95% of whom

live directly from agriculture.

245 trained patrollers, in charge of monitoring and geo-referenced patrolling (with GPS) around COMATSA.

63 community based organizations committed for the sustainable

management of 295,000 hectares

around the COMATSA forest

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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**MADAGASCAR'S** NORTHERN HIGHLANDS LANDSCAPE

## WHY WE WORK HERE

The Northern Highlands are home to one of the largest forest blocks in Madagascar. Relatively intact and protected from human intrusions in some areas, the Northern Highlands remain an immense reservoir of Madagascar's exceptional biodiversity.



Rare species. More than 2,281 species are identified in this landscape, of which 538 are endemic, such as simpona lemur (Propithecus candidus), found only in this landscape and one of the 25 most endangered primate species in the world. Reptiles, amphibians, lemurs, birds: all rich collections of wildlife in a natural habitat, a large part of which remains



**Exceptional protected areas.** The Northern Highlands contain about ten protected areas, including the second largest terrestrial protected area in Madagascar (537,465 ha): the Ambohimirahavavy Marivorahona Protected Areas Complex (CAPAM), composed in majority of the Marojejy Anjanaharibe South Tsaratanana Corridor (COMATSA) covering 318,087 hectares. The landscape is also home to a part of the Unesco Atsinanana Forest world heritage site, the agro-ecological region of Sambirano; and Maromokotra, the highest peak of Madagascar at 2876



orests. vital to man. It is in the heart of the Northern Highlands where the six great rivers that water the east and the west of northern Madagascar (the Sava, Sofia and Diana regions) and their sources. Thus, several million people depend on this reservoir - landscape for access to drinking water and water for agriculture. In addition, the rainforest favors a temperate climate and forms a natural barrier against cyclones, which usually occur on the east coast of Madagascar.

## RISKS AND CHALLENGES

The Northern Highlands landscape is subject to pressures that accelerate its degradation and the loss of its natural wealth.



# TAKING ACTION, WHAT TO DO NOW

To achieve a sustainable development model for the Northern Highlands landscape, WWF is based on an integrated approach to forest protection that combines biodiversity conservation and community development.

To meet these challenges, WWF Madagascar is implementing four interrelated objectives that also take into account the adaptation needs of climate change:



management and resilience of 537,000 hectares of protected areas and areas managed by the local communit



Promote new sustainable agricultural techniques to mprove harvests in uality and quantity. and the income

of people around protected areas

Promote a

sustainable wood energy sector in the districts of Andapa and Sambava

Improve the

governance of

natural resources in

the landscape.





The empowerment

of civil society.



In order to achieve the changes we are considering

in the Northern Highlands landscape, we are

actions through the sectors (public and private) and strategic



The transition of WWF from a direct implementation role on the ground to a role of influence and development and partnerships. towards local

We believe that sustainable development in Madagascar is achievable when its natural capital, anchored in infrastructures or green spaces, is secure, and its products and benefits are equitably shared between the actors.

