



WWF MWIOPO

NEWSBITES

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Wow! It is difficult to believe that I am looking already at the end of an incredibly busy, and fruitful, year. A year full of challenges and opportunities, setbacks and successes; and one of new friendships, alliances and partnerships.

Much of this last period has seen my focus turn outward again, working on visibility and partnerships. I was grateful to be able to participate in the shareholder group meeting for the Coastal East Africa Initiative. We not only have a joint workplan with CEA on tuna conservation, but we share many similar programs, challenges and opportunities. A group of WWF network stakeholders in Africa also came together after the CEA meeting to discuss several Pan African issues, in the context of a proposal to establish an African Advisory Committee.

Joined by Martin Nicoll, we took advantage of the occasion to hold a preliminary meeting with the WWF offices who have agreed to participate in the Program Implementation Agreement for MWIOPO. This group brings together representatives from WWF offices in France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United States and WWF International, in a more strategic type of partnership arrangement to deliver even better results.

I was encouraged to attend the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) meeting in Dubai with Didier Fourgon, in recognition of our growing role – partnering with CEA, SF and MT Initiatives – in improving tuna management in the Indian Ocean. I continued from there to WWF Sweden, where I was able to meet with many from the WWF team as well as with partners at SIDA and the Lottery. Meetings with WWF global leaders at the WWF Assembly meeting and Leading at the Top rounded out the trip.

Meanwhile, on the home front, we hosted a visit from the Helmsley Trust, a US-based foundation with experience funding conservation programs in Galapagos and Baja; renewed our MOU with UNIMA, a leading environmentally conscious shrimp producer; and actively engaged in COP17 activities at home and in Durban. We also conducted peer reviews for all of our programs. These were the first reviews under the new strategic plan, and the comments I have heard related to progress toward shifting toward a land and seascape approach is really encouraging. I end out the year with the chance to participate in the International Coral Reef Initiative, along with Rémi Ratsimbazafy and WWF France's new Overseas Territories Coordinator, Anne-Gaëlle Verdier.

As I write this, the new transition government has recently been formed in Madagascar, still new enough that the jury is very much out. With the change in government, we will be working hard to reinforce some of the good trends seen over the past year, while hoping that Madagascar may be able to finally find a way out of the three-year political crisis.

I hope you have recharge your batteries over the holidays – I think 2012 will be an exceptional year!!!

Kled style

Rick Hughes

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END OF THE ROSEWOOD CRISIS?

Transfer of power of governmental officials

The commitment of the outgoing Minister, Herilanto Raveloharison, to restore forest management in general and to solve rosewood traffic, in particular, has rekindled the trust of technical and financial partners and the Malagasy civil society. Until his departure in November 2011, he received the stock declaration from rosewood operators (31 August 2011) and started a physical inventory of all stocks of precious woods in the country. Various consultations (Sponsors, NGO, Civil society, Operators...) were carried out concerning the purpose of these prohibited products, for the good management of the sector and the profit of the country. Until today, 49,000 logs of precious woods were inventoried and the international community closely follows the continuation of this political commitment. In fact, various collaboration sites depend on the transparency, the rationality and the success of this process (eg: Additional funds PE3, UNESCO, REDD+...).

Another leadership style

The new Minister of Environment and Forests, Randriamiarisoa Joseph, is a Doctor of medicine, who is passionate about nature and its biodiversity. The definitive transparent solving of the rosewood sector, with the collaboration of all entities involved (public, private, civil society, national and international), are among his first priorities. His main goal is to restore the authority of the State regarding latent traffics of natural resources, which ruined the image of the country at the international level. In order to accelerate the implementation of the process, the Minister set a "Rosewood Cell", including his close collaborators and requested the advice of technical and financial partners (including WWF) on several occasions. For the latter, in order to ensure the good management and transparency of the management of rosewood stocks, we need to go through four inevitable elements:

- Continuing the seizure and inventory of logs and their potential certification in order to avoid any potential laundering of new logs and return to illegal exploitation;
- Selling wood by auction under the supervision of an international specialized company and independent observer to ensure the transparency of the operation;
- Setting a special account and a steering and financial audit committee to handle the sales revenue:
- M Holding a national discussion with the civil society and communities involved on the distribution of sales revenue.

On the basis of these discussions, a short term action plan should be developed by the Ministry of Environment and Forest to legally and transparently finalize the counting and transactions of the prohibited products while a longer-term strategy would be used for solving internal administrative gaps (MEF- DREF- MNP...) and improving the collaboration with other domains (private sector and civil society) and sectors (Finance, Justice, Forces of Law and Order, Regions...). In the meantime, efforts should also be made to quickly restart the setting of an appropriate framework for sustainable management of forest resources because the legal private sector as well as the transfers of management to grassroots communities - and the wood sector as well as all actions of on-land conservation in general - have more than suffered from this disaster.

Opportunity to restore the image of Madagascar at the international level

The management of the Rosewood file is a test for this new government. Its success will generate significant economic benefits for the country and for the conservation of its unique biodiversity. Beyond environment, the image of Madagascar will be restored - an important point as the country is seeking international recognition.

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TSIRY FAIR: AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE EXPERIENCE

Because of WWF's expertise in sustainable forest management, they were invited to speak about forest management for a sustainable development in a panel discussion event during the (Tsiry) international fair. It was an opportunity for the WWF staff to share their experience and for the farmers, who work with them, to see the benefits of sustainable resources management. In total, 140 people came to listen to the speakers.

The participants to the discussion had the opportunity to develop their knowledge on the economic, ecological and social aspects and advantages of sustainable forest management. They were very interested in developing their knowledge on the links between different aspects of sustainable resources management using their abilities: listening to the speakers, exchanging ideas and experiences and, browsing through the products sold at the exhibition stands.

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PROTECTED AREA: PK 32 - RANOBE

The protected area of Pk32 -Ranobe, within the Fiherananana-Manombo landscape, has exceptionally high levels of floral and faunal diversity as a result of the heterogeneous habitats. Sadly, this protected area is also the most threatened protected area of Madagascar, losing 5% of its forest cover annualy. It has become the new agricultural frontier for the South for slash-and-burn agriculture since the early 2000 as migrants gather there to convert the forests into agriculture fields. These new fields cannot sadly be cultivated for more than a few years due to nature of the poor calcareous soils. These migrants therefore find themselves being in the same dire situation year after year, being trapped in a poverty-resource depleting cycle. WWF recognizes that these migrants as wel as local communities are all suffering from a "food crisis" as soil fertility diminishes due to maladapted practices, as saturation of agricultural land accelerates with demographic pressure, as well agriculture fails due to climates change, all exacerbated with the failing conditions of certain infrastructures, at a scale and rate that is alarming.

In order to reduce the trends in deforestation of the protected area of Pk32-Ranobe, WWF is working with its local partners to enhance the governance of the protected areas, by focusing on a network of local associations to manage different sectors of the protected area. Instead of one traditional large core conservation no-take zone in the protected area, WWF is working with communities to secure several smaller focal conservation zones for ensuring maximum protection. Outside these core zones, WWF is working with communities to make them less dependent on slash-and-burn practices; this is being achieved at the farmers-level through supporting pilot farmers in improved agriculture techniques, at the community-level, it is being achieved through support in improving medium-sized water infrastructures for agriculture, and through introduction of new income generating activities. WWF has also been heavily involved with professionalizing charcoal producers and find ways to improve the economic value of the forests. What is clear is that WWF and the communities need further support from other partners to improve the livelihoods of the communities at a scale that can lead to a conservation impact in this 160,000 ha highly threatened protected area.

A new partnership between WWF and the African Bank of Development, responsible with government and regional agencies, for the rehabilitation of the Manombo irrigation perimeter, along the Manombo river, north of the protected area, may catalyze the environment - development nexus for a green economy in this landscape. This project will secure 6,000 hectares of irrigated land for agriculture in this arid region through the perimeter rehabilitation. Good water management, land tenure security for the farmers and climate smart agriculture by the users, with provision of work for migrant workers, will ensure that people will move away from forest-dependent activities into sustainable agriculture. At the same time, maintaining the forest cover along the river, as well, as the ecosystem as a whole, will ensure constant water flows in the irrigated perimeter. WWF and the African Bank of Development is working together to operationalise this catalytic relationship.

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AERIAL SURVEILLANCE CAMPAIGN

The third aerial surveillance campaign went through successfully from November 9 - 23, 2011, with our partners from Aviation Sans Frontières – Belgium.

The Protected Areas (PA) of PK32-Ranobe, Amoro'ny Onilahy and the national parks Mikea and Tsimanampesotse were overflown for the third time.

The PA Ankodida, North-Ifortaky, Angavo and Vohindefo, were overflown for the second time. It seems wildfires occurrences have been curbed in some areas where ground patrols were organized in 2011.

However the remaining work needed to jam slash-and-burn agriculture next year is considerable. Five new PA have been overflown: the Tsaratanana corridor - Marojejy, Midongy South-Anosy, the National Park of Andoahela, the corridor between sections I and II and Behara - Tranomaro. This campaign is the starting point for flights over humid forests ... alas they also are burning horribly.

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ANOTHER « BRICK » FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT...

The Mac Arthur Foundation awarded a grant to WWF in order to provide to Befasy and Maromena children an opportunity to have a secured and attractive learning environment. Indeed, it is projected to refurbish existing classrooms and build new ones equipped with decent school toilets and school desks consistent with the eco-friendly school concept promoted by UNICEF in Madagascar.

This building technique opts for using techniques and materials likely to reduce costs as well as the impact of the building on the environment; for instance instead of fired bricks requiring much firewood, compressed earth blocks are used. Thus it is necessary to assess first of all the type and quality of local materials likely to serve in the building process, so as to adapt according to the area and provide children with a healthy, enjoyable and weather-resistant school environment. In this coastal, hot area with sand in the winds, the architecture will be adapted accordingly with due attention given to the comfort of students (good thermal insulation). Besides, according to their means and possibilities, local communities also participate in the building project, which is a necessary ingredient to the good management and maintenance of the community infrastructure in the long run.

As a result of this partnership between WWF and UNICEF, we expect using this building model, respectful of the environment, to reinforce environmental education messages in this coastal area. Thus far, the emphasis was more on marine biodiversity and its sustainable management. Henceforth, with the materials used and the practical example of their school environment, topics can extend and get simplified to include children's rights, access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation as well as causes and impacts of climate change, as this phenomenon poses a special threat to communities wellbeing especially in term of water, energy and food security. In other words, the WWF adopts the approach "Eco-friendly school concept" introduced and supported by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF. In a nutshell, may this "further brick" stimulate children's willingness to go to school and thrive there as we also reduce the ecological footprint of our actions on the planet...

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SEESO: THE SYNERGY-ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT IN THE SOUTH WEST **PROJECT**

The European Union sponsored project Synergy-Energy-Environment in the South West ended in September 2011.

In order to perpetuate actions, the project works towards regional coordination of Wood Energy actions in the Atsimo Andrefana and has established, along with the Region, a commission (CEFR) with a mandate to ensure that coordination. Based on upstream-downstream proximity actions at stakeholder level, the wood-energy-sector's regulatory system is presently operational in 4 top-priority municipalities. 400 coalminers from those communes benefited from a training on improved coal carbonization techniques. Three reforestation campaigns yielded the following results: 850 ha reforested; 860 individuals from the 5 communes involved, structured into 34 groups of tree planters, shared in the three campaigns.

It is projected that with continuous and sustained effort, it will be possible to replicate and improve the actions undertaken. There is need of following-up and reinforcing the application of the regulatory system with replication in other communes not comprised in the project SEESO, integrating the taxation level of the rules governing this sector, promoting the improved coal carbonization technique, increasing reforested plots with tree planters' empowerment, as well as implementing sites for transfer of management aiming to wood energy production.

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The event "environment and oil quartet" held in Mahajanga from November 23 to 26 was a success with respect to expected results. Its purpose was to inform communities and civil society on the opportunities and challenges for oil and gas activities.

Permanent exhibitions, entertainment/games and documentary films were held during the four days of panel discussions.

Students at the ESPA and DEGS of Antananarivo came especially for this event by study tours. Satisfied, ARENA will remake it in other regions in 2012.

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ANIMAL IN THE SPOTLIGHT: TOLOHORANTO, BOKITSY

The ground-roller family is unique to Madagascar, and the five species are some of our most interesting and beautiful birds – hundreds of tourists come from all over the world especially to see them and other endemic bird species. Four species occur only in the eastern rainforests, while the long-tailed ground-roller (Uratelornis chimaera) is restricted to a small patch of forest in Atsimo-Andrefana, between the Mangoky and Fiherenana rivers.

Here it lives in spiny thickets that grow on sandy soils, which the species needs because it builds its nest at the end of a long burrow. Its remaining habitat is so small, and so threatened by charcoal production and slash-and-burn agriculture (hatsake), that the species is classified as vulnerable to extinction. The world population is only around 20, 000 birds. Fortunately, two new protected areas are now being established to protect the species; Forêt de Mikea National Park (managed by Madagascar National Parks) and PK32-Ranobe New Protected Area (promoted by WWF).

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ENDEMIC TORTOISES: A NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THEIR PROTECTION

The Ministry of Environment and Forests organized a national conference on the protection of the 5 endemic tortoises of Madagascar from September 8-9, 2011. An overall 12 month-action plan was developed. Despite the ongoing adaptation of this action plan into a specific conservation plan for each of the 5 species, we begin to see the results of the commitment of all stakeholders; seizing trafficked tortoises (eg; more than 8 tons of meat and 220 live tortoises in October), thorough legal prosecution of traffickers, quick transfer of tortoises to safe and appropriate sites (the case of 94 tortoises seized in November). Other initiatives, including the analysis of demand in meat, dismantling organized networks as well as the progressive implementation of a penal policy are ongoing thanks to the collaboration between stakeholders.

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THE WIOMSA SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

Five marine team members attended the WIOMSA scientific symposium in Mombasa in October. Oral presentations had the following authors and titles:

S. Solo, D. Randriamanantena and H. Ralison - Integration of sociological aspects into the sustainable management of marine and coastal natural resources in the west coast of Madagascar (presented by Serge).

L.V. Rasolofomanana, B. de Ridder, V. Ramahery and H. Ralison - Participatory management of mangroves in Ambondrolava (Ranobe-Bay - Southwestern Madagascar) and its impacts on local communities (presented by Lilia).

Displayed posters with one-to-one presentations were:

- Lineage-based marine resources management in southern Toliara;
- \mathbf{V} Creation of a community-run MPA: case of Salary North;
- Participatory restoration of mangrove ecosystem services in South West Madagascar.

The symposium was an excellent opportunity for the WWF marine team to improve their communications skills, mainly the way to present the results of their work in front of an international audience. The next symposium will be held in Madagascar in 2 years, and we need to raise the bar: all marine team members should present orally!

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COP17: LEGALLY BOUND TO 4 DEGREES?

A small delegation of WWF MWIOPO staff members traveled to Durban last December to join the WWF International team for the annual UNFCCC climate negotiations.

The team consisted of Tiana Ramahaleo who participated for WWF and Madagascar in the negotiations around Adaptation and the Green Climate Fund, Malika Virah-Sawmy, who followed side events about Climate Smart Agriculture and REDD+ and represented WWF MWIOPO in the official WWF side event "Food. Water. Energy. For all. Forever.", Maminiaina Rasamoelina, who represented WWF's largest project, the Holistic Conservation Programme for Forests (HCPF) and followed REDD+ side events and Martina Lippuner, who joined the international team of communicators for the WWF climate campaign and reported back to Malagasy journalists. Several WWF experts back in Madagascar gave interviews to interested journalists which resulted in a good media coverage.

With results in Durban still being analyzed, Tiana Ramahaleo, Species and Conservation Planning Programme Coordinator at WWF MWIOPO says: "It was a unique experience for every team member to participate in a conference of this size. We have all learnt a lot and contributed where we could. We were able to showcase the good work we do on climate change adaptation and mitigation in Madagascar.

The results coming out of cop17 are somewhat disappointing which always makes it hard to stand up and continue. But given Madagascar is third vulnerable in the world to climate change we have no other choice than to continue the fight - legally bound to 4 degrees is no option for us."

A detailed analysis of the results and possible implications for Madagascar can be found in the next edition.

For more information:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsgVVI8D bI&feature=related

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THE HOLISTIC CONSERVATION PROGRAMME FOR FORESTS

The second press trip for the Holistic Conservation Programme for Forests (HCPF) initiated by its main donor Air France has clearly been a communications highlight this past year. Several major French media came to Madagascar last October to experience first hand where HCPF is at three years after its launch. After a first day devoted mainly to carbon assessment, our vahiny ("guests" in Malagasy) went to the exceptional spiny forests of Southern Madagascar, a world apart. They visited the activities implemented by WWF to preserve the unique environment and improve local people's livelihoods. So far, comments and feedback were positive, which motivates the HCPF team as we enter the last trimester of phase 1.

Media participants: TV5 Monde, Europe 1, Paris Match, Les Echos, Le Point, Youphil, Memento

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NEW PROJECTS

MG0956: "YES": Youth Environmental clubS to mobilize children and communities toward sustainable development in Madagascar

Start date: October 2011

Planned end date: **December 2012** Donor: **SIDA via WWF Sweden**

Summary:

The project aims to reinforce youth environmental clubs and their network so that they proactively influence and engage other out-of-school youth and community members in sustainable natural resources management and improved living conditions, thus meetings their development rights and needs within two priority landscapes (Ranobe and COFAV).

MG0958: Improving School Infrastructure and Secondary School Education for Girl in Coastal SW Madagascar

Start date: Juillet 2011
Planned end date: Juin 2013
Donor: MacArthur Foundation

Summary:

The project aims at contributing to enabling environments for sustainable marine resources management in the villages of Maromena and Befasy, fishing zone and pilot sites of WWF's work on marine protected areas and improved traditional fisheries management, by seeking to expand opportunities for girls to attend secondary school and alleviate the expenditures from parents, through the construction of two new schools with more classrooms and allowance of scholarship for a few students.

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CLIMATE WITNESS: PIERRE CHRYSOSTOME, ANTSIKOROKE, AMPANIHY **OUEST, MADAGASCAR**

I am Pierre Chrysostome and I live in Antsikoroke in southern Madagascar. I am 65 and live off my chickens and sweet potato fields. I have 12 children between 35 and 7. We wanted six, but it's difficult to stop...

Antsikoroke was not always my village. Androka became a victim of climate change. The sand dunes have been growing. Then in 2005 came cyclone Erneste. The river Linta destroyed Androka Ela. You can see the ruins of my old house, now covered by sand. The dunes are threatening our fields now.

There has been a huge change in climate. It used to rain from October to February. Now, we have rain from November to January. It can be dry for long periods, even in the rainy season. I get less and less from my fields and so does everyone else. Many families go hungry. Many people turn towards the ocean.

I am a Vezo, a fishermen. When I was young, 2 hours was enough to fill the boat. Now, fishermen come back with nearly nothing after a whole day fishing. More people fish today and the river transports more sand which covers the reef. Fish, lobsters and octopus can't hide any more.

To see the climate witness video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qU7SLRg3J4&list

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NEWS IN BRIEF

UNIMA AND WWF:

In November 2011, WWF and the Unima Group renewed their commitment to the sustainable development of Madagascar.

Amine Ismail, Chief Executive of the Unima Group and Richard Hughes, Regional Representative of WWF Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean Programme Office signed a partnership agreement for an environment-friendly industry considering the well-being of the surrounding communities where the industry is located.

"It is not impossible to combine economic and social development with the preservation of the environment. We hope to spread the partnership to other members of the private sector", says Richard Hughes.

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ENERGY-SAVING LIGHT BULBS IN AMBOSITRA:

JIRAMA consumers were not indifferent to the Lumitsits Project launched in Ambositra, a pilot city of the WWF, the Ministry of Energy, JIRAMA, and the Telma Foundation joint project.

6,000 lamps were distributed to JIRAMA consumers who paid a modest participation, in exchange of standard light bulbs. With low energy consumption, the ESLB can last seven years, while delivering the same light intensity as the standard ones.

Their use is a mean to help us reduce domestic energy consumption as their price is affordable to a large number of consumers.

For more information:

http://www.wwf.mg/ourwork/footprint/footprintstories/

To see the Lumitsits project video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5MKbiUKvM4&feature=related

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WWF MWIOPO IN NUMBERS



More than 30 projects in Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean



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.

www.wwf.mg

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