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October-December

Trimonthly Newsletter from WWF Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean Programme Office

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Where is Madagascar going?

Despite the multiple problems it faces (Opposition demonstrations, military coup attempts, no international recognition, lack of "official" financial resources, etc.)

The transition government led by Andry Rajoelina, with the assistance of a strong military group, is still standing up implementing its own roadmap and has succeeded in establishing the two chambers of parliament (without elected members), making people voting YES (74.2%) during the referendum for the new constitution, declaring ceremonially the birth of the 4th republic and expect soon to initiate their consensual government.

On the other hand, the SADC delegation, led by Leonardo Simao, is not discouraged and still goes on playing the role of international mediators, consulting continuously all the stakeholders to find out a consensual solution to the Malagasy crisis. His last proposal is not to call into question the existing High Authority of Transition process but to integrate the other parties into the transition institutions and speed up the Presidential election. In front of the current situation and after a two-year political crisis, we are still in a very deep uncertainty and several questions are in every one's mind:

- Will the SADC proposal be the definitive and viable formula?
- Will it be really agreed by

the diverse parties when the rationales are now mainly based on money and hatred?

- Will Andry Rajoelina really go on denying his promise again and will rally for the presidential election?
- Will we replicate the ten year crisis in Ivory Coast or the civil war as in Rwanda?
- Is the geopolitical game still relevant during this globalization era?

Meanwhile, several people are in jail for political reasons and insecurity and inflation start to impact seriously the daily life of the Malagasy people. Let us hope that the upcoming rainy season and its yearly cyclones will not bring too many disasters that will give the "coup de grace" to this already very weakened Malagasy population

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Director's message



Dear colleagues,

Now that we have come to the year's end, it is time to draw lessons from the past for a fresh start next year. 2010 definitely was not the last year for the political crisis neither did we see the end of precious wood logging. On the contrary logging is thought to have reached new areas like Anosy. The main surviving projects of the Environmental Program 3 will soon run out of resources while present political circumstances do not facilitate the development of a new program. Meanwhile, after 20 years of hard-won successes, environmental gains keep waning; trafficking of natural resources persists, severer wild fire occur, communities give up, authorities switch priorities... Nevertheless, we need to move forward, along with the crisis, for biodiversity should not be held hostage by politics.

That is what we call for today all technical and financial partners of the environment in Madagascar!

That is why 2011 is for WWF the year of the launching of our new strategic plan for 5 years. A plan that focuses on promoting sustainable livelihoods, the integration of environment into key sectors of agriculture, fisheries, mining, strengthening civil society and good governance environment. A plan that puts partnership at the core of our approach.

We are happy to share with you some of our internal reflections in this issue: poverty diagnosis-preservation, "teambuildings" and project reviews, and especially, especially, all our best wishes for 2011!

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New Strategic Plans in Nagoya - MWIOPO at COP10

The 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity took place from 18 to 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. This meeting was of particular importance as the world agreed on a new strategic plan and targets to meet the unprecedented challenges of the continued loss of biodiversity compounded by climate change.



Among the targets, it is important to note that countries:

- Agreed to at least halve and where feasible bring close to zero the rate of loss of natural habitats, including forests;
- Established a target of setting aside 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of marine and coastal areas within protected areas systems;
- Countries agreed to restore, through conservation and restoration, 15 per cent of degraded areas and ;
- Will make special efforts to reduce the pressures faced by coral reefs.

A financial plan to support the implementation of these targets was agreed and new funding for biodiversity conservation was announced by countries like Japan, Norway and the EU. Moreover, for the first time since the Convention was signed in 1992, a protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization was signed.

5.2 Mio. ha under protection

WWF MWIOPO sent two representatives to the Nagoya meeting, as part of the Malagasy delegation. We took part in two major side-events. A first side-event hosted by the Malagasy Ministry of the Environment showcased the significant progress

achieved by the country in pursuing the Durban vision through the establishment of the Madagascar Protected Area System. Out of the targeted 6 million ha of protected areas by 2012, Madagascar now has 5.2 million ha under legal (temporary or definitive) protection. Creative protected area models, based on community empowerment and the recognition that poverty alleviation is key to achieve effective conservation, are emerging. The country's sustainable protected areas financing plan is in operation as the Madagascar Biodiversity Trust Fund is making its first grants in 2010. These progresses are all the more remarkable given the gloomy political context and the suspension of support to the environment. The side-event was attended by some 40 people and was a complete success.

Promote the WIO ecoregion

The second side-event was hosted by the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA) in order to promote a Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Partnership that would include the island states as well as the coastal East African states. WWF MWIOPO was invited to present the biodiversity vision and strategy for the WIO marine ecoregion on behalf of our partner the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). This vision promotes:

- At least 30% of all coasts benefitting from effective community-based fisheries management within 5 to 10 years;

- A network of coastal and shallow marine protected areas representing all habitats and communities and protecting 20% of all marine habitats, is established and effectively managed;
- Diverse and pelagic productive ecosystems are sustained through effective fisheries management and a network of offshore management areas. Needless to say, such an ambitious can only be achieved with full buy-in and close cooperation between and from the IOC member countries.

Talking about precious woods

Finally, a third event taking place in Nagoya was also very important for Madagascar. This was the conference press to launch the "Investigation into the Global Trade in Malagasy Precious Woods" report by Global Witness/Environmental Investigations Agency on October 26, 2010. This press conference was attended by the Minister of Environment and Development of Norway as well as by high officials of the governments of Germany and France and of the UNESCO. This second report

looks into the precious wood trade from the departure of logs from Malagasy ports to their final destination

- 1,000,000 USD rosewood beds in Chinese malls ! Some of the key points of the report:
- 98% of all exported wood goes to China, the remainder goes to the US and Germany.
- Chinese operators seem to be well aware of the illegal nature of the wood but continue the trade.
- Several Chinese operators say they had direct deals with the President of the HAT
- The traffic feeds a demand for high-end furniture when the returns for Malagasy loggers is virtually inexistent.

UNESCO decided to list the Ala Atsinanana world heritage site in its endangered list in August 2010 as "a call for urgent action". This call was well heard as the government of Norway has announced its financial support of 1 million USD to restore these unique forests before irreversible damage occurs. We hope other countries will follow.

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A promising Western Indian Ocean partnership

During the Convention for Biological Diversity meeting, 10th Conference of the Parties, a Side Event hosted by the Government of Seychelles and the Global Islands Partnership has brought a new initiative for the Western Indian Ocean region.

Ambassador Ronny Jumeau of the Republic of Seychelles in the U.S.A and Permanent Representative to the U.N., has called upon Islands States and East African countries to come together and explore how the Western Indian Ocean region can work together to address critical issues of climate change, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development to ultimately protect the livelihoods of the 56 million people who rely directly on this coastal environment for survival. During his strong and inspiring

allocation, the Ambassador Ronny Jumeau says: "We refuse to be defined by the small size of our countries: we will be defined by our drive, ambition and determination and the Western Indian Ocean can lead the way", and then added: "we, the Seychelles and islands of the Western Indian Ocean region, need to reach out beyond our borders, beyond our waters to ensure our safety and security."

The success story from the Micronesia and Caribbean Challenge and the Coral



Triangle Initiative, in terms of partnership among several countries, high level political alliance, policy change and synergies between ongoing initiatives, resources mobilization and engagement principles and strong commitments, will ultimately give new initia-

tive to the WIO region countries for the sake of their rich coastal and marine diversity and multicultural people. The process is on and feedback are expected from involved countries.

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New Pan-African Network on oil, gas, mining

We recently reported on WWF's progress in addressing extractive industries in Madagascar. Our Madagascar team recently helped to organize an Africa-wide meeting in Entebbe, Uganda which examined the need for a more concerted region-wide collaboration to address extractive industries challenges and opportunities regarding biodiversity conservation and equitable social development.

WWF staff from Senegal, Cameroon, Gabon, the DRC, Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Madagascar, Norway and China were joined by representatives from government, industry, civil society groups including NGOs and development agencies for this three-day event in October. The meeting was an outstanding success with delegates calling upon WWF to establish a formal pan-African network of specialists to work on extractive industries and the environment. No less than three Uganda government ministers extolled the value of NGOs such as WWF working with their departments and in helping to strengthen civil society participation in oil development

in that country. The ministers reminded all present that the role of civil society in national development is enshrined in Uganda's constitution, and praised WWF's help in building capacity for responsible participation.

Industry representatives expressed their strong interest in working with WWF and similar NGOs as they develop oil, gas and mining reserves across the region. Having WWF and other independent environmental groups providing guidance and playing the role of watchdog on the industries was considered to be a way of avoiding serious mistakes and conflict now and in the future. Donor interest was also quite evident during

the meeting. The Norwegian development agency NORAD agreed to support WWF's efforts to work in partnership across the region. The World Bank expressed similar interest and is currently considering a formal agreement with WWF to work together where our interests overlap.

The outcome of the meeting is that WWF staff in Africa and Madagascar will form a pan-African network of specialists that will exchange knowledge and experience on oil, gas and mining. In each country, WWF staff will also encourage partnerships with government, industry and civil society in order to be more effective in promoting best practices and standards

in this sector. In Madagascar, our team is delighted to report that WWF hopes to soon sign an agreement with OMNIS and the National Environment Office in order to work together on Strategic Environmental Assessments, one of the key means of avoiding social, environmental and industry conflicts. Government interest in working with NGOs like WWF is a very positive sign for the future.

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No political will to stop natural resources trafficking?

These days, the upsurge of turtle trafficking has become the front page of diverse newspaper though the rosewood trafficking is not yet over.

Despite the promulgation of the 2010-141 decree in April 2010 banning definitely ebony and rosewood logging and export, diverse rosewood storages were found in various areas and the logging is still going on in the forests and protected areas. The anarchic environmental situation is facilitated by different reasons including the following:

- The March 17, 2009 coup fostered a "help yourself" attitude among the population; as a result, diverse supermarkets (the first targeted were those belonging to the former President) were robbed and burnt. In three regions, people burnt the forest service offices so until now many forest civil servants dare not enforcing laws.
- The environmental Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) process facilitated by The World Bank to prepare the next Madagascar Environmental program and involving the Government and all the Environment stakeholders

(PTF- CSO- Private Sector) were disrupted and the new programs, mainly related to Carbon and Climate Change (e.g. REDD/RPP), are still hanging, waiting for the international recognition; all of these led to a sudden joblessness for thousands of people and a disrupt of assistance to alternatives in the forests areas.

- Meanwhile, the Transition Government seems to promote several non-traditional partnerships (mainly on extractive industries) to face their critical financial situation, and most of the time, this approach tragically ignores or neglects environmental regulations and concerns

Worldwide efforts

The international community and the in-country Civil Society Organizations did their best and lobbied everywhere every time (Communiqués- TV shows- International meetings- Tribunals- Meeting with high officials-etc..) in order



to alleviate the situation but since the demands and the suppliers are increasing every day and because the political will is not expressed, the damages still continue. WWF MWIOPO participated actively in these movements but made also the following actions in particular vis-à-vis the rosewood trafficking:

- April/June 2010: Assistance to the Government and the in-country authorities to facilitate the integration of Madagascar precious woods into the CITES Appendix 3
- October- November 2010: Using the panda.org-website to collect for 5000 signatures to the HAT President Andry Rajoelina to use his authority to stop illegal logging in Madagascar
- October 15, 2010: Meeting with the HAT President; he promised to link up with the Chinese Government and to allocate presidential funding to stop the upsurge. As a response to the 7 mn film presented by Global Witness and EIA (Environmental

Investigation Agency) stating the involvement of the HAT President in the rosewood trafficking, he said that he effectively welcomed these Chinese investors at the Presidential Palace through the former Prime Minister's demand but he denies having made any deal with them

- December 1, 2010: Meeting with the Minister of Environment who declared to be ready to implement straightaway the Ministry action Plan once the resources are available.

Waiting for a sign

WWF and the other in-country Technical and Financial Partners (CCPTF-E) are ready to participate generously as soon as the Government express their political willingness followed by the implementation of a sound and result-based action plan to stop natural resources trafficking and to break up the related mafia organization. Let us wait and see!

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New Opportunities

Towards Sustainability Certification of Biofuels in Madagascar

Donor : not yet defined

Duration : 10 months

Status : Concept submitted to WWF International

The purpose of this project is to build up knowledge and capacity for sustainability certification of biofuel producers in Madagascar through a benchmark sustainability assessment of their operations.

Promoting Environmental CBOs in Madagascar

Donor : EMIS

Duration : 3 years

Status : Concept submitted to donor

The project is the follow-up of an ongoing project which aimed to build WWF's capacity in improving its support to CBOs and provide support to selected CBO in order to ensure they become strong resource managers and civil society members.

Enhancing the involvement of local communities in stopping endemic tortoises trafficking

Donor : Whitley Fund for Nature

Duration : 1 year

Status : Concept submitted to donor

The project aims to reduce radiated tortoises trafficking in harvesting or transiting hotspots within the Mahafaly and Karimbola Plateau to allow remaining tortoise populations to recover and reach a viable state.

New Projects

MG0947: Saya de Malha Banks – A potential High Seas MPA

Start date: October 2010

Planned end date: March 2012

Donor: WWF-SE

Summary: The Saya de Malha Banks, part of the Mascarene Plateau, constitute an underwater ridge connecting Seychelles and Mauritius. They have been identified as an ecologically and biologically significant area of global outstanding and therefore a potential High Seas Marine Protected Area. The project aims at facilitating the development of an agreement between the concerned parties. In order to achieve this, clear understanding of the potential HSMMPA is promoted and feasibility study proposed to identify the most appropriate legal and management regime.

MG0948: Modernized Law Enforcement and Surveillance of Protected Areas

Start date: October 2010

Planned end date: June 2012

Donor: WWF-US

Summary: The project aim to reduce threats to Madagascar's spiny forest (Androy-Anosy region), including fires, illegal harvesting of wood and the trade in illegal species by establishing an early warning system for the detection of illegal activities and effective policing of forested areas.

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New Staff



Manantsoa Andriantahina

Chef de Projet NORAD

Since 02 November 2010



Didier Fourgon

Fisheries Programme Officer

Since 01 October 2010



Xavier Vincke

Assistant Technique Survol

Since 16 November 2010



MWIOPO staff posing for WWF Internationals Year of the Tiger campaign: "At WWF MWIOPO we save lemurs but we care for our last wild tigers too!"



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Mohéli Island - a priority place for conservation

The island of Mohéli is called Mwali by its residents and is the smallest of the three islands comprising the Islamic Republic of the Comoros.

The island of Mohéli is called Mwali by its residents and is the smallest of the three islands comprising the Islamic Republic of the Comoros. Covering 290 km², the volcanic island is dominated by high forested ridges reaching 800 m above sea level and numerous steeply-sided valleys. Most of the natural forest cover has been replaced by introduced tree species but some areas remain at the highest altitudes and on very steep slopes. These are home to several species that are found only in the Comoros or, in some cases only on Mohéli. The most celebrated endemic species must surely be Livingstone's flying fox, *Pteropus livingstonii*, found only on Mohéli and the nearby island of Anjouan. It is one of the world's largest and rarest species of bat and its total population is just over 1,000. This all-black giant roosts in tall trees on steep slopes by day and flies out to feed on fruits and flowers during the night.

Breeding turtles and dugongs

Mohéli is home to the only legally protected area in the Comoros, the Mohéli Marine Park. The park was created in 2001 and covers 404 km² of coastline, coral reefs, sea-grass beds, and islands. It is one of the most breeding sites for Green turtles, *Chelonia mydas*, and indeed boasts one of the largest numbers of nests for this species anywhere in the world. The park also has a resident population of large sea cows or Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*). In historical times, the current population has been greatly reduced by hunting but Mohéli residents have voluntarily chosen to stop hunting altogether. An encouraging sign has been a recent sighting of a mother with a very young calf.

It has a small full-time staff but most of the monitoring is carried out by members of local communities along its shores. 11 village associations co-manage the park with support from its small team of



professionals. The associations organize offshore surveillance and monitoring, turtle nest protection and tourism. These communities are generally very proud of their park and have taken some remarkable steps to protect it, even going so far as to banning net fishing because of the risks of coral damage, over-fishing and accidental capture of Dugongs.

Exotic tourist hide away

Mohéli is steadily becoming popular as an exotic tourism destination, a place well of the beaten tourist circuits. There are regular flights from the neighboring islands and Mayotte, and a considerable percentage of the islands visitors stay at the charming Laka Lodge on the south coastal shores of the marine park. The park's pristine coral reefs in shallow crystal-clear seas are a must for the visitors, and many hike up the hill-sides to view the giant flying fox or to watch the endemic

bird species. During the turtle breeding season, many go to Itsamia to experience literally hundreds of female turtles laboring up the beaches to reach their nesting spots.

WWF is providing technical assistance to the marine park and has helped it strengthen its local community management systems and to develop a new management plan. The park has been prioritized in WWF's new conservation strategy for Madagascar and the Western Indian Ocean.

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Analyzing the link between poverty and conservation

For it is impossible to treat conservation and poverty separately in the context of Madagascar, WWF WMIOPO attended a conference of the WWF network held in February 2009 in Naivasha, Kenya. The meeting resulted in a statement to determine the level of commitment, the roles and the responsibilities of WWF, the goal being to alleviate poverty and achieve sustainable and fair results in the field of conservation.

Again, it would be hardly feasible to conserve without integrating constraints shouldered by communities living within and around conservation areas. During the conference, an assessment of poverty and conservation issues was conducted by MWIOPO as well as 18 other offices of WWF in Africa. All projects implemented within the five past years were presented, including interviews of certain partners. Visiting the Mahafaly Plateau area as well as the surroundings of the Amoron'I Onilahy NAP was conducive to fruitful exchanges and reflections.

Rich but hostile biodiversity

In this part of Toliara, WWF action focuses on a very impoverished area. Besides, partnership opportunities seem limited especially because communities are scattered in a vast, under populated area. Additionally, the poor quality of the soil and the lack of rainfall do not favor food crops. What is more, farming practices are not sustainable as they merely export elements without managing the soil as "capital". The remoteness of local administrative units does not always reward the willingness evident in good initiatives to manage natural resources sustainably.

Coherent, converging actions to scale up!

Although various initiatives have been stimulated by WWF, such actions remain low in

scope and duration. Thus, scaling up is needed to impact livelihoods significantly. The interrelations and dynamics within WWF various programs and projects should be maintained and even reinforced to yield palpable results. Meaningful lessons could be learned from the team's previous actions. Supportive partners include Madagascar National Parks, Tany Meva/SGP, AVSF, SAGE, PSDR, ADES, Ny Ho Avy, etc. It would be beneficial to funnel actions from all these partners into a global framework comprised in a mutually accepted plan for sustainable management and development. It is worth mentioning that local associations are equally active, thus showing their commitment to this process.

Key points to remember

The assessment made it possible to identify several points deserving due consideration:

- WWF standard as conservation organization should integrate and even single out a poverty-conservation link in our actions. It is necessary to conduct a good analysis of the initial situation. The scale of interventions, reduced by such factors as finance, time and impacted populations requires due review if tangible results are to be achieved.
- The WWF should reinforce partnership with other organizations and institutions. This process commands more attention, the goal being to move



together with other stakeholders in a spirit of reciprocity and complementarity.

- Investing in capacity development, local associations' empowerment, organized visits to share experiences and raising awareness is viewed as indispensable to support conservation and development activities.
- The WWF should step up the lobbying effort to improve impacts on environment in Madagascar.

Sustainability of conservation gains and population benefits

This is the major challenge we face. This assessment enabled us to make a sincere, critical evaluation of our mission and the way we work. We will thus be able to make necessary adjustments and determine adequate measures to move forward and reap tangible, sustainable results. It is our common responsibility with local communities and other stakeholders to bring out the most

adapted and achievable solutions. The issues are steadily changing, thus demanding anticipation, adaptation and enough vision to respond adequately and confront various challenges deepening the vulnerable state suffered by communities and populations. Hence, there is increased need of local, national and international partnership.

Off to a better future

The way toward sustainable conservation and development is not an easy road. We gradually move in that direction. From time to time we pause to regain strength. Sometimes, we slow down when it looks too hazardous. At other times, the conditions are favorable and we make big steps. As far as this assessment is concerned, we went through self examination together with WWF Africa network as a whole, an effort to achieve a successful take off.

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A community granary helps overcome famine

Community units (COBA) are presently able to fly on their own as far as alternatives to deforestation are developed



This is exemplified by the Maroangira local community as it succeeded in achieving its micro project of a village community granary. The community obtained funding as part of the Conservation

Stewardship Program to build a village community granary and buy 500 daba* of paddy. Why, during tight periods people borrowed this paddy from COBA, the rate being 1.5 daba returned for

1 daba borrowed. Thus, their stock saw a 750 daba increase last year. Relying on the good management of their granary, this COBA anticipates an increase of its stock up to 1125 daba next year. According to M. Nirina Blaise, president of this COBA, "we still have one or two things to fix as far as the associative life is managed, but we are really very thankful of the precious support from WWF agents, without which we cannot succeed in managing this Village Community Granary".

Not only could the community shorten tight periods thanks to this system, but

it also spurred a desire to improve production output by adoption of improved cultural techniques the project taught them.

Success in developing such alternatives is a guarantee of the durability of conservation activities in the Vondrozo corridor.

* 1 daba = measurement unit, around 1 gallon of 20 liters.

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Plant in the spotlight: *Aloe suzannae*



Aloe suzannae is among the 144 Aloe species and subspecies reported in Madagascar to date. It is the largest treelike Aloe of the great island growing up to 7 meters high with an inflorescence of possibly 4 meters. Its leaves can easily grow 1 meter in length. It is a slow-growing, late-maturing plant: individuals 3-4 years old grow only 4 inches in length and they flower only after 20 to 30 years. Unlike other Aloe, its fragrant flowering occurs during the night and is likely pollinated by bats and little lemurs. The flowering is infrequent as it happens only between 3 and 15 years of age. Regeneration in nature is virtually inexistent the reason why young plants are very rare. Even multiplication in seedbeds is very difficult. *Aloe suzannae* is found nowhere else but in the littoral area within Itampolo and Amboasary. Recent censuses indicate that out of 4-5 specimens registered in the Ankodida protected area just a few years ago, there is only 1 tree remaining. In the area of Itampolo however, a hundred tree plants were identified. Like many other species of Aloe, *A. suzannae* seeds are in high demand in the international market, 6 grains selling around 2 EURO. A young seedling of this species can sell as high as 75 EURO. Entire populations went extinct in favor of raketa (*Opuntia* sp.), a plant useful to feed zebu and yielding edible fruits during periods of hardship. *Aloe suzannae* is included both in the IUCN red list of critically endangered species and CITES appendix I. Besides, this species is scarcely represented within protected areas, being found only in the NPA of Ankodida.

As mentioned previously, population decline moved the WWF, Kew Botanical Garden and Antsokay Arboretum, all working in the spiny forests' bioregion, to join efforts for conservation of rare species like *A. suzannae*. With the swift destruction of their habitats and the climate change phenomenon, a race against time is ongoing for their conservation. The involvement of local communities will be crucial in this enterprise for these species are often located in remote areas and local involvement will foster their being protected day after day. Challenges include land clearing and other man-made threats endangering their long term survival.

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Vintsy Club at Madajazzcar: Acting together

In celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, WWF Madagascar teamed up with the cultural festival, Madajazzcar and the United States Embassy to raise awareness about the protection and preservation of the environment.



Through the talent and voice of artist, Sarah Morrow, accompanied by the young slammers of the Vintsy clubs, the aspirations and vision of the WWF regarding conservation was delivered to the Madajazzcar public on Saturday, October 16th, 2010, at the Ambohijatovo garden. "I'm very interested and concerned about issues on environment and biodiversity. Since Madagascar is a country very rich in biodiversity, I think it is important to share a message for its conservation and preservation," said the renowned American trombonist, during a rehearsal with the young slammers.

Sarah Morrow for nature

Between two songs during her performance, Sarah Morrow appealed to everyone: « This year of biodiversity is the perfect time to act together. Acting together, especially for Madagascar, which is a sanctuary of nature and biodiversity (...). Together, we are going to lead by example. Together, we will also encour-

age our co-citizens to consider the future of our planet in each of their decisions ». The artist also accompanied the slammers from the la Source Vintsy club in engaging declamations.

Everyone should help

WWF Madagascar believes that everyone should and can help spread the message of environmental protection. "We are all concerned with the mission of biodiversity conservation and in raising the awareness of our surroundings on this issue. For this, WWF turns to the youth from Vintsy clubs to share this vision through their talent,» says Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana, Conservation Director of WWF Madagascar.

The slammers who performed at Madajazzcar are from Vintsy clubs that began in 1992. To this day, it is the largest network of youth environmental groups, covering 22 regions with approximately 35,000 members.

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Why?

*« One day, God created the earth.
When creating the earth and the sky on the first day,
He created a unique Island
Here, all biodiversity is gathered in one place
Here live the rarest and most unique species*

....

*Just like everywhere
Here, there are killers
Ecosystem killers*

*Forest killers, animal poachers
Who sell our tortoises, for a few foreign currencies
In order to have a better lifestyle.
They log our forests for a few notes
They spoil our biodiversity to have better looks,
To attract looks from others...*

...

*I'm saying "our", because all this is "ours".
I'm saying "they", because "they" are most of us.
I'm saying "most of us" because they do not
know the value of this wealth. »*

**Faneva and Diamondra
La Source Vintsy Club**





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New momentum for forest conservation in Madagascar

The PHCF (Programme Holistique de Conservation des Forêts – Forest Conservation Holistic Program) launched the third year of its implementation phase in the early days of October this year.

In order to gain new momentum and enhance teamwork for the new year of this program, a workshop gathering all members involved in the program was held from the 3rd to the 4th of October 2010. More than five dozens PHCF team workers contributed to this workshop. The workshop focused on the following goals:

- Evaluating the two first years of this project implementation

- Sharing experiences and drawing relevant lessons
 - Upgrading team members knowledge of financial and administrative procedures of WWF
 - Reassessing scheduling and budgeting of activities
 - Reinforcing teamwork spirit within the program
- Clearly, the results went beyond expectations. As a matter of fact, sharing experi-

ence between team members involved in this program was successful with each site drawing positive contributions from other approaches. Besides, the need to reinforce previous experience was taken into account while reviewing each team's work plan. This was particularly relevant regarding the transfer of natural resources management, and the necessity to tune the various approaches

used to implement activities. It was equally decided to reinforce team personnel to relieve project managers crumbling under multiple projects. And, best of all, the whole team is now speaking the same language as far as administrative and financial procedures are concerned, thus preventing any such delays in the future.

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We are the champions !

The United Nations Volunteers lead the celebration of the International Volunteer Day every year.

On December 4th, 2010, WWF Programme, the Vintsy Club Famelona, and students in the Geography Department of Antananarivo University were sharing one stand during the exhibition. And, together, we won the first prize for the best stand !!!

Many visitors were interested and asked questions about how to become WWF volunteers.

The WWF Youth Volunteering

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Trimonthly Newsletter from WWF Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean Programme Office

Sustainable Energy: what vision for Madagascar?

November saw rich exchanges and new perspectives for members of MWIOPO team as they worked on the topic "Renewable Energy and energy efficiency".

Reviewing the project "Synergy Energy Environment" (a project contributing to the advent of sustainable management in the Wood-Energy sector in the area of Atsimo Andrefana) with the European Union in the South West part of the country helped realizing the deep changes gradually taking root in the exploitation of charcoal on the RN9 line. Changes were equally noted regarding anchoring the wood-energy reforestation process in rural communities.

100,000 solar cookers

November was also devoted to preparation of "Solar Madagascar", an economic initiative aiming at distributing some 100,000 solar cookers as cutting-edge alternative to the use of charcoal. This is one of the Climate Energy NI's iconic projects, supported by WWF Sweden in its preparatory phase. WWF International team (supervised by Paul Maasen), WWF Swiss, MWIOPO and the Dutch

research institute TNO all helped addressing issues related to technical design, business plan, and the set of actors likely to guarantee success.

On track for Gold Standard

The presence of WWF-Swiss Bella Roscher was a nice opportunity to start preparation of the project Gold Standard to distribute some 600,000 low fuel consumption lamps in Malagasy cities, a big contribution to the Smart Energy initiative. Reflections with other stakeholders (JIRAMA, TELMA and the Ministry of Energy) helped précising implementation details, especially respecting the pilot project and the baseline study scheduled in the first term 2011.

Inspiring workshop

Thus, MWIOPO increased commitment in the Energy sector in Madagascar (the goal being to reach better integration of environmental principles) called for organization



of workshops with the theme "Sustainable Energy: what vision for Madagascar?" WWF International Jean Philippe Denruyter supported us in sharing WWF Energy Vision (a global scale vision) with the Ministry of Energy personnel. As it aimed to inspire, the exchange helped identifying the right track for future actions to step up development of renewable energies and adoption of energy efficiency principles in Madagascar. This exchange built on analysis

of constraints previously hampering efficient and significant progress in this area despite the enormous potential of the country as far as renewable energy was concerned. While the first workshop targeted a knowledgeable audience (especially key stakeholders in the area of Energy development), the second workshop aimed a much broader public, representing activities led by Energy end users as well as the various components of the society: private sector, public institutions, NGOs, technical and financial partners. Hence, the Vision Energy and the latter workshop were equally rich and well shared.

The year 2011 will thus start with a follow-through of recommendations, and getting feedbacks at the level of MWIOPO as well as the Ministry of Energy.

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LALANIRINA RASOANANDRIANINA, Extractives Industries Program Officer

Trained as Geologist, Lalanirina, as a university student, was interested in extractive industries. Lalanirina acknowledges that preoccupations from actors and entities concerned with the environmental and social impact of extractive industries are rightful and fully justified. This helps explaining why she reoriented her actions in environmental assessment and management for the benefit of the "Mines and Oil" private sector.

Newsbites (NB): Why the WWF?

Lalanirina (LR): After thirty years of experience in the productive private sector, I started examining another perspective in order to support conservation of biodiversity, encourage the private sector to adopt the environmental mainstream and associate stakeholders for better environmental management. WWF puts forth sincere effort in order to address concrete problems linked to extractive industries. This has helped me to satisfy a desire to improve my understanding of the approach adopted by an organization concerned with environmental conservation as it relates to extractive industries. Within WWF, a first step was launching the extractive industries program especially with the support of the Norwegian program Oil for development (OfD). Within this program's framework, the present capacity of civil societies in the area of extractive industries activities (mines and oil) is a serious obstacle to a better control of this sector in Madagascar. There is room for improvement and the program will support development of capacity in this

sector. Indeed, it is necessary to improve civil societies and communities capacity in order to reach the program's objectives and make it a useful tool to achieve sustainable development. I am pleased to join in order to develop our ambitious initiative, for sustainable development not to remain an empty word.

NB: Your vision of Madagascar?

LR: Economic forecasts for the next decade remain uncertain. The mining industry particularly seems to enjoy an upsurge since 2007 with two big nickel and ilménite projects being launched. The income proceeding from those mining projects could be of critical importance to Madagascar. Granted, the economic impacts would

be positive, but such gains would remain limited. Oil exploration typically will move forward albeit slowly. Non-traditional resources will especially deal with environmental constraints. Madagascar needs a radical change for a better future. All hope has vanished not, though what hope remains is quite tiny.

NB: Any personal thought, as last advice?

LR: Extractive industries are a source of riches and development for both host and producing countries, but on the one hand, industries could also engender major if not fatal environmental, social and political consequences. On the other hand, resources are considerable yet limited. Integrating the environmental and social

dimensions in the extractive industries sector has hardly been more urgent; thus it is imperative to work together.

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WWF MWIOP, François Beudard, Source internet

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