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January-April 2010

Trimonthly Newsletter from WWF Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean Programme Office

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No solution to crisis yet

Madagascar has been undergoing a political crisis for the past 15 months. The four main political movements have signed agreements in Maputo and Addis Ababa, during the second half of 2009, "for a way out of the crisis". Unfortunately the agreements were never implemented because no consensus on any side could be reached.

France and South Africa together with the International Contact Group have developed a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by the President of the Transition, Andry Rajoelina and the former President Marc Ravalomanana.

The final discussions were held in Pretoria from April 28 to 30. The two other former heads of state, Albert Zafy and Didier Ratsiraka were meant to "sign the agreement, once it had been signed by the two main protagonists."

Ravalomanana and Rajoelina agreed the draft agreement in principle which focus on the establishment of a government of

national unity and the timeframe for elections. The Pretoria talks have thus resulted in a failure since, overall, Rajoelina wanted to maintain his non-consensual Prime Minister, Camille Vital, and Ravalomanana requested clearer statement on his amnesty; but, as the final communique stated, "the parties will meet in Pretoria in a fortnight", in other words in the third week of May. But overall, all parties have their own versions and statements and rejected the faults to the others since, so far, none saw the famous France-RSA proposal.

Back in Antananarivo, the

President of the Transition Rajoelina announced that he won't travel to Pretoria anymore and will go on his own way: Put in place a neutral or a government of national unity, Organize all elections whoever will or will not vote and Terminate the transition by the end of this year.

This week Rajoelina is due to meet key military leaders who had issued an ultimatum at the beginning of April, "to present a roadmap for ending the crisis".

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Illegal logging

This quarter continued to be a grim one for precious woods in the country, however a new sign of hope emerged with the announcement by the transition government of a decree that forbids further exploitation and exportation of precious wood.

On December 31st, 2009, while everyone was preparing to enjoy New Year's Eve, the government issued another decree which extended the authorization to export precious wood that allowed to the 13 operators in September 2009. Hundreds



of containers that were still waiting were thus evacuated from the port of Vohemar. Since then, the number of operators seems to have increased from the first 13 to around 32.

In early March, strong rumors were running that a new decree was being drafted, that would grant further authorization for export to new operators. In fact, a DELMAS boat named "Kiara" anchored in the port of Vohemar in early March and is known to have loaded up to 276 containers (some figures mention up to 450 containers) deported March 18, 2010. In response to this, a small group of environmental professionals including WWF developed a draft counter-proposal suggesting a moratorium on logging, collection, transport and exportation of rosewood and ebony and the enforcement of the existing legislation on the seizure [continue on next page ...](#)

Representative's message



It's our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, affects its successful outcome! (W James). MWIOPO's new 5

year strategy is such a task and our positive and energetic attitude, which I see daily in the team will surely help us achieve greatness in the coming years. Yet we cannot do it alone, we need continued support of donors and members to listen to our story and support our work. In the current political climate this is difficult, but as Mark Twain stated "Twenty years from now you'll be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did".

Don't let a political issue destroy the last vestiges of truly magnificent biodiversity and support MWIOPO to conserve a world biodiversity hotspot!

Cheers

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Illegal logging

continued

...and tendering of existing stocks by the government as well as the sanctioning of those operators who have violated the law.

From 7 to 9 March 2010, representatives of the environmental donor community – US, Germany, France, Norway, EU and the World Bank – visited the SAVA region. In a communiqué, these donors “regret that illegal logging of wood is still continuing and that the situa-

tion is far from being controlled” despite the interventions of the Task Force and the many reports of arrests and seizures in the media. They strongly recommended that the “system of exceptional authorization” be stopped in order to avoid further negative impacts.

It seems that these various initiatives bore fruit as the Government Council communiqué of 25 March 2010 mentions the adoption of a new decree that forbids the exploitation and exportation

of precious wood. The decree has finally been signed by all ministers, but we are still waiting for its implementation in the field before singing victory!

Besides this, WWF organized a meeting of over 30 precious wood experts in December 2009 to discuss the possibility of registering the species in the CITES. Participants agreed that it was too late to develop a proposal that could be submitted to the March 2010 COP in Doha, but that listing in CITES Annex

III could be done at anytime by the concerned party. This was thus decided as a common path and a group of scientists is currently compiling the existing data and collecting necessary field data with the objective of submitting a proposal to the Madagascar Plant Specialist Group in early May and a submission to CITES in mid-May.

If you are interested in detailed information on illegal logging in Madagascar, we recommend the [new Wikipedia page](#), in addition to the Global Witness report and to our two press releases on [panda.org](#): 25th January 2010 and 16 March 2010.

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Conservation Plan 2010-2015

WWF's conservation strategy for Madagascar and the Western Indian Ocean Islands aims at achieving the following long-term vision: By 2050, the full range of the region's unique biodiversity and its ecological goods and services are sustainably conserved and managed now and in the face of climate change, and contributing to the society as a whole through the effective and culturally adapted actions of Regional, National, and Local institutions.

Our 5-year Conservation Plan for 2010-2015 will primarily focus on securing ecoregions and priority conservation land/seascapes as well as those flagship endemic (tortoises, lemurs) and marine migratory species (marine turtles) that our region harbors.

Ensuring that natural resources are used in a wise way so that



they can meet the current and future needs of the people is also very important if we are to achieve sustainable conservation.

Our efforts will specifically focus on promoting sustainable fisheries (tuna, shrimp, reef fishes) and sustainable energy that reduces pressure from fuelwood production on natural forests. Recognizing that positive change for conservation requires strong policy and institutional backup, we are developing our advocacy capacity to mainstream biodiversity into sectoral policies such as

mining, oil&gas, and agriculture, while supporting local partners to take part in biodiversity conservation and the environmental debate through education, information and capacity development.

Because climate change will affect the way we do conservation and as its effects are already felt in many parts of the region, our cross-cutting climate change adaptation programme promotes research and capacity building both internally and with conservation partners and local communities.



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Success for the LiDAR mission

The most important mission of the "carbon assessment" component of the Holistic Conservation Programme for Forests (HCPF) in Madagascar took place at the end of March 2010.

A two-engine Cessna equipped with the LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology flew over the two largest sites of the programme to measure precisely the height of the forest's canopy and understory.

Andapa and Fort Dauphin

Supervised by Greg Asner, Ty Kennedy-Bowdoin and James Jacobson, two engineers from the Carnegie Airborne Observatory (Stanford

University) led the mission in Andapa (Moist forest in the North of Madagascar) and Fort Dauphin (moist and spiny forests in the South). They received support from Maminiaina Rasamoelina (WWF) and Romuald Vaudry (GoodPlanet).

Objectives met

The political crisis in Madagascar made the preparations of the mission – and especially all the administrative work – particularly difficult. A few technical problems and sometimes too many clouds on Andapa resulted in slight delays. But, the mission eventually achieved the desired outcomes.

3D data gathered by the team will now be treated and inventories are to be carried out in the zones covered by the LiDAR. Combined with the development of allometric models, the data will help obtain an accurate estimation of the amount of carbon stored in the above ground biomass.

Results to be presented at Cancun

Final results will be presented at the next UN Conference on Climate Change in Cancun (Mexico), in December 2010.

In accordance with its objectives, the HCPF is contributing significantly to improve carbon forestry knowledge in

Madagascar, at a time when the country is setting its own policy on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).

In Fort Dauphin, the LiDAR team also met with the local WWF team and explain them the technology and purpose of the mission.

Olivier Van Bogaert
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A vision for Biodiversity & Fisheries

The first Regional planning process carried out in the Western Indian Ocean Islands Marine Ecoregion (WIOMER). A vision for Biodiversity and Fisheries and five priority actions for the next five years are currently proposed with 51 seascapes and sites of special significance that are priority for immediate action to protect biodiversity and strengthen fisheries in WIOMER.

The island nations of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles, under the umbrella of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), have made a meaningful progress with regards to the marine ecoregional planning process through the "Marine Protected Areas Network" Project implemented by WWF Madagascar & West Indian Programme Office and

funded through the French GEF (FFEM) and the WWF Network.

This project has brought together scientists, conservation organizations, representatives of governmental institutions and fisheries sector to contribute to the development of a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Marine Ecosystems and Fisheries that seeks to find the balance between sustainable marine resources use and the conservation of marine biodiversity.

Within this Strategy, a Vision



for the biodiversity and fisheries and priority actions for the next five years have been proposed for WIOMER.

Also, 51 priority seascapes and sites of special significance that are priority for effective fisheries management have been identified. These priority seascapes represent the ecoregion's dis-

tinct assemblages of species and ecological communities including areas of globally, regionally and sub regionally importance.

In coordination with the IOC and through its regional cooperation process, the Regional Strategy will be finalized, approved, and adopted through intensive consultative process among governmental institutions and other key stakeholders in the region.

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The Lake Naivasha II Statement

One year ago leaders from around the WWF network came together at Lake Naivasha to forge a way forward on issues of human wellbeing, poverty and conservation. From this gathering the WWF poverty policy was developed and endorsed at the highest level. One year on, again at Lake Naivasha, we, the WWF leadership in Africa, have agreed that the time is now ripe to put the fine commitments of the policy into action.

Nowhere else in the world is the overlap of rich natural resource endowment, conservation need and extreme poverty so striking. Nowhere else therefore is it so imperative to address poverty related issues in all that we do. This is not a recent revelation. In fact around half of our work in the field addresses social development issues. In Africa, thinking about poverty is in our DNA. We now need to maximize our investments, become more strategic in our conservation interventions and get even more serious about these issues, which after all will determine the success and sustainability of our agenda and projects. Climate change is all-encompassing, and it is not just nature that is at risk. Humanity is equally threatened – most particularly

in rural places, with perhaps the most serious consequence for resource-dependent and small-hold farm families. Recognizing the interdependency between the environment and human systems, between environmental and socio-development institutions, policies and processes, we have a vision for our impact in Africa.

It is one where:

- our role in conserving and managing a healthy environment as a decisive contribution to the development agenda is explicitly recognized,
- we are the partner of choice (in terms of our environmental expertise) for governments, communities and development agencies; and
- local community partners

are well equipped to take conservation work into the future, while ascertaining their own path of development.

To move towards this vision we urgently need to:

- maximize our positive impact on people and nature both at field and policy levels by making our work on poverty and conservation more coherent, starting with the development of an explicit, African, pro-poor operational framework,
- strengthen our capacity at all levels so that we can take account of socio-development processes in our programmes and design pro-poor conservation interventions that work;
- recognize the critical need

for strong partnerships and, most crucially, partnerships with the communities whose lives we seek to positively impact, and finally, rectify the clear mismatch between what Africa considers imperative and our (i.e. WWF's) internal planning, performance and reporting measures.

The leadership of WWF in Africa herewith announces that it is taking primary responsibility for developing a coherent and coordinated operational plan that will take the organization to the fulfillment of its vision in Africa. At the same time, we call on our network partners to give us their strongest support to enable us to make this happen.

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New Funding Opportunities

Implementing Climate Adaptation Strategies in the World's Most Outstanding Natural Place

Donor: European Commission – EC (ENRTP, Lot 2: Climate change in non-ENPI countries)

Duration: 4 years

Status: Proposal submitted by WWF INT, in partnership with WWF Madagascar & West Indian Ocean, World Wildlife Fund - Colombia Programme Office, Special Administrative Unit for the System of National Natural Parks of Colombia, CorpoNarinho (Colombia), Conservation International Colombia, Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas Foundation, Conservation International (USA). This proposal aims to increase the resilience of coastal ecosystems to maintain provision of environmental goods and services and disaster risk reduction in the face of future climate conditions benefiting coastal communities in Colombia, Madagascar and the Philippines.

A Toolkit for Integrating Climate Change into Community Based Protected Area Management in Madagascar

Donor: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife without Borders

Duration: 1 year

Status: Proposal submitted to donor

The overall goal of this project is to develop a practical, accessible toolkit that allows community based protected area managers to integrate climate change considerations into protected area planning, management and monitoring.

Climate change adaptation for vulnerable mangrove ecosystems in Tsiribihina and Manambolo, western Madagascar

Donor: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Duration: 2 years

Status: Concept submitted to donor

The purpose of this project is to strengthen practical experience in the development, implementation and monitoring of climate change adaptation strategies related to mangrove ecosystems.

Enlisting the precious wood species of Madagascar in the CITES appendix III

Donor: WWF CH/ CITES

Duration: 4 months

Status: Concept submitted to donor

The objective of this project is to launch the process of listing Malagasy precious wood species in CITES III appendix and develop comprehensive efforts to secure national and international supports.



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Pérennisation de la filière Bois Energie dans le Sud Ouest (PEBESO)

Donor: European Commission – EC (ACP-EU Energy Facility II)

Duration: 3 years

Status: Concept submitted to donor, in partnership with Tany Meva Foundation. The project aims to contribute improving the effectiveness and sustainability of energy supplies for households cooking in the South West region, while ensuring respect for ecological balance.

Développement d'une réserve de Biosphère model dans le bassin de Mandrara, Sud-Est Madagascar pour la déforestation évitée et la résilience améliorée des écosystèmes et communautés au changement climatique

Donor: Agence Française du Développement – AFD (FISONG)

Duration: 3 years

Status: Concept submitted to donor, in partnership with CARE Madagascar. The objective of the proposed project is to reduce deforestation to fight against climate changes while improving local livelihoods, resilience of ecosystems and communities.

Contribution to the Increase in the Wood Potential in South West Madagascar

Donor: Better Future

Duration: 10 months

Status: Concept submitted to donor

This project aims to increase the woody potential of natural forests, integrated in the development of carbon actions in the south of Madagascar.

Enhancing civil society capacity in forest monitoring and law enforcement, while creating sustainable livelihoods through entrepreneurship in two of Madagascar's largest forest blocks.

Donor: NORAD

Duration: 3 years

Status: Proposal submitted to donor and accepted

The main purpose of the project is to combine a cost-effective, rapid and innovative forest monitoring and law enforcement systems with a package of locally adapted interventions incentivising communities to maintain and enhance carbon stocks in the two most important biodiversity hotspots and forest blocks in Madagascar, the Northeast Moist Forest Triangle and the Southwest Spiny Forest Complex.

Supporting Local Conservation Management in the Face of Future Climate Change in the Plateau Mahafaly Landscape-Seascape Zone

Donor: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Duration: 3 years

Status: Concept submitted to donor

The proposed project intends to build on existing interventions in the project area to conserve and effectively manage this priority seascape/landscape zone by further strengthening local governance of terrestrial and marine natural resources and protected areas. This approach will take into consideration the land-to-sea human migration dynamism, and an understanding of how climate change will impact the livelihoods of the local communities living in and around a future MPA proposed in the area and the Tsimanampetsotse National Park.

New Project

Project number: MG0934.02

Sustaining Life: Empowering Civil Society for Improved Livelihoods and Effective Natural Resources Management in Madagascar

Start date: January 2010

Planned end date: December 2012

Donor: The Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation - Sida

Summary: The project focuses on ensuring long-term availability of resources by empowering CBOs in two biodiversity hotspots of Madagascar: the south-eastern forest corridor between Fandriana and Vondrozo and the western mangroves and associated terrestrial and marine ecosystems in the Melaky and Menabe regions.

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Vola Ramahery

Get to know the ones that get the job done! This time a former vintsy kid who is a leader in conservation these days.

When Volanirina Ramahery was about 8 years old, she could buy and read Vintsy magazines at school. She then started to learn about nature conservation and became more and more passionate about taking care of the environment – she could never get enough of it.

Originally from Tana, Vola studied Animal Biology and Conservation at the University of Antananarivo and then left for the US for two years to study Coastal Zone Management. “I have seen the coral reefs in Southern Florida and they were not as nice as the ones we have here!” she says.

Now, Vola works as the South West Marine Coordinator at

WWF Toliara. “I love the idea that we as WWF can contribute to human well-being but also to the sustainable use of natural resources,” says Vola “and I love working in the field with the local communities though it is challenging sometimes. I consider them as partners, they are involved and they make it happen! Ah, and I love research...” Vola talks about parrot fish, butterfly fish and damselfish which are important indicator of the reef system health.

In 10 years time, Vola hopes to still work with WWF but “who knows, maybe somewhere in the Pacific” she laughs. “WWF is my organization and I am sure we can achieve our goals as we’re now laying a solid foundation to marine conservation. I hope that we will have a healthy reef which is well managed by the resource users themselves”.

Martina Lippuner
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New staff

Andrianaivo Rado Herinaivalona

Coordinator Diana Region as from January 2010



Ndrantomahefa Razakamanarina

Policy Officer as from February 2010.



Ioniarilala Radonirina

Fisheries Programme Officer as from February 2010



Valencia Ranarivelo, Initiatives for Sustainability Programme Coordinator, as from March 2010





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First Earth Hour a success

It was Madagascar's first Earth Hour - but it was as exciting as anywhere else on this planet!

How do you organise a festival in times of crisis and political instability? How do you convince people to participate in a symbolic act against climate change, while most of them don't even have electricity?

The communications department at WWF MWIOPO discussed questions like the ones above for quite a while before

having found the right formula for Madagascar. But we couldn't be prepared for the enthusiasm we encountered, despite the difficulties in the country.

The trainstation in Antananarivo switched off its lights during Earth Hour together with 15 restaurants in Tana, Tulear and Ile Sainte Marie which celebrated Earth Hour with candle light dinners.

Members from Vintsy environmental education clubs visited businesses in Tana and Tamatave to raise awareness for climate change and they organised a festival at ESCA in Tana on Earth Hour day. An exhibition about climate change complemented the carnival. Furthermore, we were present everywhere in local media as well as on both national radios and "Radio des Jeunes" with special programs during the hour. Everyone embraced the idea and we are all looking forward to Earth Hour 2011 in Madagascar.

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CC adaptation training in Tana

With its unique forest biodiversity and important coastal ecosystems, DIANA region in the north-west of Madagascar is likely to suffer significant impacts from climate change (CC) in the future if adaptation strategies are not identified and implemented.

WWF Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean Programme Office, supported by the MacArthur Foundation, is implementing a 3 year change adaptation project in the region that aims to evaluate the vulnerability of the region to climate change threats, work with regional decision makers to develop response strategies and strengthen capacity of key stakeholders on climate change issues.

As a part of this project, twelve representatives of a diverse range of Government departments, local NGOs and the University of Antsiranana attended a comprehensive climate change adaptation training session in Tana last week

with the aim of becoming the region's first group of climate change adaptation champions. "We are very pleased that the representatives from DIANA region were able to attend the training" said Alison Clausen, WWF MWIOPO's Climate Change Programme Officer. "This training is the first of its kind in Madagascar and the participants will have an important role to play in raising awareness amongst decision makers and local communities of the threats and potential responses to climate change in the region"

The participants at the workshop addressed a range of issues ranging from the scientific basis of climate change, as well as investigating methods to evalu-

ate vulnerability to climate change and develop appropriate response strategies.

"Based on the latest modeling it is projected that average annual temperature increases of up to 3°C will be felt in DIANA by 2090, and that in most parts of the region rainfall will decrease in the dry season and will become more intense during the wet season." said a representative of the "Direction Generale de la Meteorologie". "It is also possible that by 2090 the path of cyclones will move further towards the north of the country"

Participants from the training course will be running a series of district and regional level training workshops over the next few

months and will be involved in carrying out vulnerability assessments and preparing adaptation plans for the region. "The training workshop was a great opportunity for us to come together and discuss these important issues that will be fundamental for the future of the region" said Riziky Hiviel Tsiresena, President of the Diana Region Environmental Steering Committee and spokesperson for the participants. "We look forward to continuing our collaboration with WWF on climate change adaptation and working with local and regional stakeholders to ensure the communities and natural resources in Diana region are resilient in the face of climate change".

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Climate change adaptation as integral part of conservation efforts

As part of WWF MWIOPO's commitment to integrating climate change adaptation activities into its conservation planning work, a series of working sessions was held during January and February 2010 to develop a detailed Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for WWF MWIOPO for 2010 – 2015.

Over 30 staff from the Terrestrial, Marine, Footprints and Initiatives for Sustainability programmes participated in the working sessions. During the working sessions, staffs were first given focused training on current research, and tools and methodologies of relevance to their specific areas of work. Staffs were then asked to identify the procedures, training, and tools that they need to be able to effectively integrate climate change adaptation into their work, and the projects that WWF MWIOPO should pursue to allow us to fulfill our goal of becoming a leader in climate change adaptation work in Madagascar and the Western Indian Ocean region. The Adaptation Action Plan will form the core of WWF MWIOPO's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which will be finalized before the end of March 2010.

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Emile Jean - a climate witness

The changing climate in Madagascar is making it more and more difficult for farmers like Emile to make a living.

My name is Emile Jean and I live in Tsiandrona Nord. My village belongs to the rural community of Itampolo in the very South of Madagascar. I am 53 years old and married according to our traditions. We have 11 kids, 6 boys and 5 girls. They are between 6 and 35 years old. We live in 3 one-room houses. A sleeping house, a kitchen and a house to stock our yield.

I am from the Mahafaly tribe and the Temitongia clan. My village is between the forest of the lower Plateau Mahafaly and the ocean. I am a farmer like my father and his father before him, but there are some fishermen in our village too. I plant maize and vegetables. Half of what we grow is for our own needs, the rest we sell. Like every Mahafaly I have a couple of zebus.

For some years now, we have been losing a part of our manioc yield because the rain comes too late. We also have more

insects these days. We used to plant in the dry season also. This helped to overcome the lack of food between the rainy seasons. Now this is not possible any more, we just lose seeds if we do it... It used to rain a lot in January. Now there is no rain at all in this month.



When my grandfather was young, they didn't have more than one or two bad years in 20 years. When my father was young, they had a bad year every 7 years. Now, it's every two years. We even risk having the second bad year in a row. 2010 could be the worst ever – we are very worried.

The price for cattle is very low, while the prices for other prod-

ucts have doubled. Because of this, I now drink rohondroho in the morning instead of coffee. It is like coffee but stronger.

We used to water the animals in little natural ponds. Nowadays they are dry for 9 to 11 months. When I was young, they had water for 6 months. Thank God we have a pump in the village these days.

I don't know who or what is responsible for those changes. When we changed to community based forest management, we sacrificed a zebu to ask God for his protection. We would protect nature, the forest and the tortoises. It was like a contract and God helped us through difficult times. Maybe we have to do another sacrifice as the last one was already a while ago. Especially because some of us didn't respect the contract and have cleared some forest anyway. Maybe God is angry.

I am really scared that the

drought continues. I am very scared of famine.

My kids all go to school. Education is what they inherit from me. I hope that they all become intellectuals, someone important, professionally speaking. Then they can take care of me, when I am old. They will remember that they got a job because I worked myself to death to educate them. I hope they will bury me in a big concrete gravesite when I am dead instead of a simple pile of stones.

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First certified MPA managers in West Indian Ocean region

The Western Indian Ocean Region encompassing East Africa countries and Islands States have committed to preserve their marine biodiversity in order to provide sustainable goods and services for the human beings in the long term. They have elaborated the 1st certification programme for marine protected area professionals in the WIO region.

A certification programme for marine protected area professionals has been implemented the first time in the world in the Western Indian Ocean Region. This programme called WIO-COMPAS (Western Indian Ocean Certification of MPA Professionals) is a certification programme that assesses and certifies MPA professionals in the WIO region. It promotes competences based on internationally recognized good practices in MPA management, encourages professional growth, and demands ethical conduct. WIO-COMPAS has received global recognition through endorsement by the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas – Marine.

are tailored to the experience and expertise needed to effectively carry out the different job functions of an MPA: **Level 1** - marine field operations competence focus **Level 2** - site management competence focus, and **Level 3** - policy and planning competence focus.



To date, 10 MPA managers have been certified for the Level 2 in the region, 6 from East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa) and 4 from the Islands States (Madagascar

and Seychelles). In February this year, MPA experts gathered in Dar es Salam (Tanzania). They discussed the next phase of the WIO-COMPAS Programme including the development of competences, profiles and assessment instruments for Level 3. They also reflected on the need to link up training and certification initiatives and on the development of a MPA managers forum. WIO-COMPAS does not replace the need for short-term training courses but provides a framework for other training courses to assist MPA Professionals in meeting the requirements for certification. WIO-COMPAS obviously becomes the glue that holds several training initiatives together.

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Two certified MPA managers from Madagascar

Source: <http://www.wio-compas.org/>

Salava Haja Miandrisoa



Level 2

Masoala National Park-Maraoantsetra - Park Director
Haja has 8 years of experience in MPA planning and implementing day to day operations.

Raymond Isaia



Level 2

Sahamalaza National Park - Park Manager

Raymond is an environmentalist with over 12 years of experience in the establishment and management of MPAs in Madagascar.

Different levels of certification

Evaluation and visit to Nosy Hara

An external evaluation team reviewed the entire MacArthur portfolio of nearly 600 grants. They selected Madagascar for an in-depth assessment that includes office visits and a few field trips to projects sites.

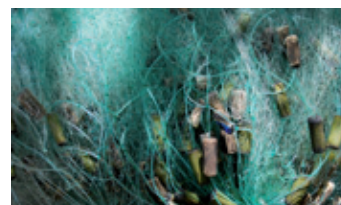
Sarah Timpson and Meg Gawler visited Madagascar over the period of February 1st – 12th, held interviews and made a few site visits. Meg (from ARTEMIS Services,

France) visited Nosy Hara with WWF and MNP staff, undertook interviews of local communities in 2 villages (Antsako and Ampasindava), and visited the marine park very briefly. The



evaluator met with the DREF and the Fisheries service responsible too.

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Trimonthly Newsletter from WWF Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean Programme Office

Explore volunteers plant trees and raise awareness

6 Volunteers from Canada, Australia, USA, and United Kingdom are installed near Toliara. This first programme in 2010 runs from February 9th to May 9th.

The hosting project, Energy Environment Synergy Project, is benefiting from the volunteers' reinforcing intervention through a large range of activities. 2 of the 6 volunteers are located in Andranohinaly. In collaboration with Water and Forests agents and Socio-Organizers, they are assigned to assist local communities in implementing and sustaining planting activities of energy wood in an area of 1,000

ha: organizing transportation of plants, planting, assigning villagers in maintaining and protecting the planted parcels and assisting the socio-organizers and forest agents in collecting data on planted parcels. The rest of the team, based in Ankilimalinika, is dedicated to guide and sensitize the local structures of coalmen and energy wood sector actors on rational exploitation of ligneous

forest resources : they assist the socio-organizers and forests controllers with providing information and sensitizing the villagers on laws and decrees in force. They assist coalmen in practicing rational exploitation techniques and improved carbonization.

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Animal in the spotlight



Louise Jasper

Coquerel's Giant Dwarf Lemur – *Mirza coquereli*

This nocturnal lemur inhabits dry, moist and even secondary forest. It can be found in Western Madagascar and is an excellent climber. In general, this species is solitary and male and female stay together for just a little while after reproduction.

Last year, a new population has been found by WWF consultant Charlie Gardner near Toliara.

-> Read more

A step forward for Health and Safety

Mitch Keiver, WWF International consultant in Safety and Security has helped WWF MWIOPO in March to identify threats to health and safety.

After last years political turmoil and some very difficult months, it was clear that we had to improve our health and safety precautions. We therefore decided to work with a consultant and ask him to review our plan.

Mitch Keiver visited the headquarters in Tana and the Toliara office. The staff did an exercise to assess the vulnerability in terms of safety and security by using the risk matrix. 29 risks were identified in Antananarivo. Among them were: Civil unrest/coup; Increased sanctions; House break ins; Street crime; Vehicle accidents; Office Fire/Workplace accidents; and Banditry, cattle

thieves etc.

Mitch shared with us some tips for those specific threats. Most importantly, he also helped reviewing the draft of Policy and elaborating the Security Plan.

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Volunteers help conserve spiny forest

Two 4x4 drive on the dirt road outside Toliara towards the small village of Ankilimalinka. A once in a lifetime experience is about to start for 6 volunteers who are joining the WWF's Energy & Environment Synergy project for 3 months.

"I want to learn about conservation in a developing country," says 24-year-old Ian Martin from Canada. Ian is one of 6 volunteers who arrived in Madagascar at the beginning of February. They will work for a project at WWF Toliara for 3 months. After a week in Tana where they had several orientation sessions and registered at their embassies and consulates, they took off for a 2-day journey down South. "I expected it to be wetter," says 20-year-old Maia Tanner from England, "I mean, it's supposed to be the rainy season!"

While they admire the vastness of the land after Ambalavao and the impressive rocks of Isalo National Park, they wonder, what they are going to experience. 24 year-old Julie Bremner from Canada says, "I want to experience something completely different and learn about Malagasy culture". The volunteers have many questions. Do we need to wear "lambas"? What's a Malagasy wedding like? How do you say "thank you" in Malagasy and why are people's gravesites nicer than their houses?



Sahondra Razafintsalama answers all these questions. She has been the Madagascar Volunteer Coordinator since the beginning of the project four years ago. A specialist in Human Resource Development,

Sahondra is also a very warm and welcoming person. "I love working with young people from different backgrounds and help them discover my country" she says, "They all leave enriched with unforgettable memories". She laughs her infectious laughter and adds "even if it is not always easy for them". In almost four years she has made sure that the volunteers are prepared in the best possible way for what awaits them in the field. Nevertheless there are problems – diarrhoea and food poisoning are common diseases among "vazaha". Some have problems integrating in the local communities or are frustrated because things work differently from what they are used to. But for most volunteers, the Explore programme broadens their horizons.

The volunteers will spend two and a half months in the field. They are split up in two groups of 2 and 4 persons and will work in two rural communities, Ankilimalinka and Andranohinaly in Toliara. These villages are intervention sites of the project MG 0927-01 Energy Environment Synergy in the South West (SEESO), within the footprint programme. The project aims to reforest some of the cleared areas around the villages to provide the villagers and nearby Toliara with fuel wood and charcoal. WWF hopes to thereby reduce pressure on the natural spiny forest. Rina Andrianarivony, project officer at WWF Toliara, manages the project. He is happy to have the six

volunteers working for him. "We need more staff than we can pay for" he says, "and also, people listen to "vazaha" here." He hopes that if people see that the volunteers are motivated to plant trees for them, they will be motivated too. The young students will raise awareness for a new law about the consumption of energy wood. They will also talk about new methods of improved carbonisation. "And last but not least" Rina laughs out loud "I can improve my English with them".

In Toliara, the 6 volunteers had an introductory session at the WWF office and learnt more about their tasks. They also stocked up on food and bought Lambahoanys. Their first week in the field will be filled with classes in the local dialects Masikoro and Mahafaly. "This is crucial," says Sahondra Razafintsalama, "They must learn the basics to allow them to communicate with local people, a key to integration in the village". Upon arrival in Ankilimalinka,



the volunteers pay a courtesy visit to the local authorities with WWF field staff: the mayor of Ankilimalinka and the "Chef du Fokontany". Sahondra and Rina reconfirm the objectives of the volunteers' stay and asks for their assistance for the volunteers' activities in the field. Then, they go to their new homes. The

four volunteers in Ankilimalinka will have one room in a concrete house and two traditional houses with thatched roofs. "This is really nice!" says Katherine Davey from the US "I am looking forward to spending my first night here in Ankilimalinka!" Maia Tanner says she will probably miss the shower and the toilet next to her room. But she is sure, that "that will be the only thing. I won't miss home – this will be our home for the next months."

On their return from the field, the volunteers will have to write a report about their activities on the project and one about the "EXPLORE Volunteer Programme". Producing a short video is another task as well as writing articles for the WWF International website. They will do three presentations in different institutions (universities, schools etc.) or organisations back home. In fact they will act as "Ambassadors" for the WWF projects where they were working, thereby continuing to contribute to WWF's mission in their different spheres of influence.

"Explore" is designed to inspire people and to let the world know more about conservation and the social reality in a developing country. Ian Martin, who studies geography, says "I want to put pressure on Canadians when I am back home to conserve our nature. What I can learn in Madagascar will help me protect my own environment, too."

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A great step towards sustainability for community based organisations

Beampingaratsy, Tolagnaro - Beampingaratsy forest (30,000 ha), is one of the priority sites selected by the “Holistic Conservation Programme for Forests in Madagascar”, which goal is to contribute to maintaining the ecological functions of the forest for the benefit of socio-economic community development.

A model of governance has been defined with local actors: Subdivision into 20 forest plots using the “Forest management Agreement” as management transfer model. The objective of this transfer is to enable local communities to use natural resources in a rational and sustainable manner and in accordance with the new forest policy. In each forest plot, a management plan must be established and implemented with the local communities.

Some Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are in place to facilitate the involvement of communities and local stakeholders in managing the forest of Beampingaratsy.

A capacity development plan has been developed to support each step of the management transfer process.

In May 2009, the transfer process was at the stage of structuring community in order to set up the CBOs and the COGEs (Management Committees), in December 2009, a training module on “Associative life” and some working tools were designed to facilitate the cre-



ation of these structures, to ensure their dynamism and their functioning, and to equip them with skills to promote good management thanks to the support and the collaboration of the project “Promoting Environmental CBOs in Madagascar”.

The results have been outstanding and impressive: 11CBOs

are functional and all have funds for the implementation of their activities. These funds are from the mobilization of local resources (financial contribution of members, donations, application of the “Dina”, issuance of cutting permits ...). These CBOs were trained on financial management and reporting.

Positive findings have been noted: the responsibilities have been shared among members, some project ideas have emerged and relationships with other partners have been established.

In general, lack of financial resources is a major problem for CBOs in Madagascar as this has an impact not only on the running of these organizations, but also on the effectiveness of their activities and the sustainability of their structures. This is not the case for the CBOs of Beampingaratsy: in addition to their rapid evolution regarding technical and organizational competence, they have a financial possibility. It is indeed a major step towards sustainability.

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Back to forest in Vondrozo

A small community in Vondrozo (South East of Madagascar) was supported technically by WWF staff for the reforestation of 1.5 ha of land.

All phases of the reforestation work, from the installation of the nurseries to the transplantation, were implemented by the local people themselves. Nowadays, the *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* plants are already 1.5m high and well protected from fire. The president of the COBA (local community) said “Now, we can be proud of ourselves because

ten years from now, Evongo will get back to forest again, as it used to be a long time ago.” This is the result of a combination of a fierce determination of the local people, and the technical support from WWF staff that relentlessly came to the COBA’s help on a continuous basis.

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Village Theatre - a good tool for raising awareness

Positive development for the preservation of marine environments thanks to Village theatres

South West of Madagascar - Initiated by WWF and EECC (Environmental Education and Cultural Center) in 2003 during the "Implementation of the Conservation of Mikea Forest Project", village theater becomes an awareness tool widely used by most development and conservation organizations in the South West of Madagascar. Its effectiveness is mainly due to the fact that the local communities themselves are participating. Actors and spectators are targeted from the

same community and the representations are in local dialects. Since 2006 until today, the Marine Programme of WWF in the South West has continued collaboration with EECC for these theaters. Four village theater groups were created at the end of this partnership and



about four shows per year have been done throughout the area covered by the Programme. These efforts have had a major impact vis-à-vis the perception and the behavior of the communities in relation to resources and marine environments.

Indeed, we could see that the concept of ownership of the marine areas gradually begins to be granted by the Vezo fishermen. This indicates a sense of positive development for the preservation of these resources.

Before, these fishermen did not care for preserving areas they didn't consider theirs. Simeona, from the EECC said: "I have worked with WWF for quite a long time now and have seen a gradual change of behavior in favour of conservation on the part of local communities. I can say that village theater is among the direct causes of this achievement."

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Moringa Oleifera, a plant with multiple virtues

The Vintsy clubs from Toliara participated in a WWF campaign for the design of ponds in the Mahafaly Plateau.

Members of the six active clubs organized collections of *Moringa Oleifera* stems for closing the pools to protect them and to purify their water. Indeed, in addition to its role in the fight against malnutrition, this plant has many virtues including water purification thanks to its roots.

The Vintsy students collected almost 2000 stems and offered them to WWF. The youngest student who participated in the collection was 6 years old. The willingness of Vintsy Club members to participate in environmental activities in the region Atsimo Andrefana is

overwhelming. They are aware of the problems of water supply and malnutrition in the region. That motivated their involvement in promoting the planting of *Moringa Oleifera*.

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