



# THE HARMONIOUS LANDSCAPE OF ORONJIA

**Category:** Protected harmonious landscape of Oronjia, Category V

**Manager:** Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG)

**Area:** 1,678 ha

**Geolocation:** Antsiranana Province; Diana Region; District Antsiranana II

**International label:** Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Priority Area for Plant Conservation (PAPC)

**Start of FAPBM financings:** 2012

## NAMING

The Harmonious Landscape of Oronjia is part of the Orangea of Diégo Suarez Complex (Antsiranana) with the Montagne des Français or Ambohitr'Antsingy and the Protected Area of Ambodivahibe.

## FLAGSHIP SPECIES

The vegetation of the protected area is characterized by a **degraded dry plant formation on sand and limestone**.

There are **290 species of plants, 70% of which are endemic to Madagascar and some endemic species of the region including *Dioscorea orangeana***, which is heavily exploited by the local populations for their food during the lean season. The fauna is composed of **2 species of lemurs, 37 species of reptiles, 5 species of amphibians and 77 species of birds**. This area of Northern Madagascar is recognized for its importance for the conservation of avifauna and herpetofauna.



**5**

**SPECIES OF AMPHIBIANS**

including **1** classified as endangered



**2**

**SPECIES OF LEMURS**

including **1** classified as endangered and **1** vulnerable



**5**

**SPECIES OF BATS**

of which **3** are classified as vulnerable, including the Madagascar flying fox



**37**

**SPECIES OF REPTILES**

including **1** local endemic classified as critically endangered ; **5** other species are also classified as critically endangered, **1** endangered and **4** vulnerable



**77**

**SPECIES OF BIRDS**

of which **1** vulnerable



**290**

**SPECIES OF PLANTS**

including : **201** endemic to Madagascar (**70%**) among which **1** classified as critically endangered, **12** endangered and **6** vulnerable ; **1** local endemic



**1**

**SPECIES OF CARNIVORANS**



**2**

**SPECIES OF OTHER MAMMALS**

The Oronjia Protected Area is located on military land (RM5), and entry is strictly prohibited during military firing exercises.

For the past few years, Sakalava Bay, which is on the border of Oronjia, has been hosting one of the tournaments for the World Kite Surfing Championship.

## PROTECTED AREA SPECIFICITIES

### LANDSCAPES AND HABITATS



Low dense dry forest often degraded, dwarf xerophytic thicket, degraded mangrove, secondary grasslands, secondary thicket.

**Particularity:** The site contains many historical vestiges: French military vestiges dating back to the end of the 19th century until the independence of Madagascar. Existence of a funerary site in a limestone cave on the Mamelon Vert Hill.

### PRESSURES AND THREATS



Charcoal production, logging for timber, clearing forests for cultivation, collecting wild tubers, hunting.



### ECONOMIC VALUE

The forest ensures the maintenance of springs supplying water to the neighbouring villages (for domestic needs).

Being part of the Orangea Complex, the landscape of Oronjia has a very strong potential for ecotourism and even for seaside tourism.

**3,157**  
inhabitants or  
**568 households**  
are directly  
benefiting from  
the ecosystem  
services provided  
by the protected  
area.



### FAPBM'S EFFORTS AND RESULTS

FAPBM began financing the Oronjia protected area **in 2012**. The total amount of grants to date is **MGA 1,041,893,914**.

The activities funded by FAPBM every year are **conservation activities (monitoring and surveillance, work on conservation infrastructure, ecological monitoring, etc.), development support, IEC and payroll and operating costs**.

**The state of conservation targets** as well as the ecological integrity of the protected area have been **stable** since 2017.



### LOCAL COMMUNITIES' INITIATIVES

The local populations take part in the management of the protected area through the **KODINA**, or **committee for the enforcement of the Dina (social convention)** in favor of the protection of the protected area's natural resources. Several local associations make up this KODINA.



fapbm



www.fapbm.org

Created in 2005, the **Foundation for the Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar (FAPBM)** is a Malagasy trust fund dedicated to the conservation of Madagascar's biodiversity. It is an innovative and sustainable financing mechanism for Madagascar's Protected Areas System (SAPM).