



THE HARMONIOUS LANDSCAPE OF AMBOHITR'ANTSINGY – MONTAGNE DES FRANÇAIS

Category: Protected harmonious landscape of Ambohitr'Antsingy of Montagne des Français, Category V

Manager: Service d'Appui à la Gestion de l'Environnement (SAGE)

Area: 6,049 ha

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

International label: Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Priority Area for Plant Conservation (PAPC), Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) site

Start of FAPBM financings: 2015

NAMING

Because of its sharp and karstic formation, the indigenous populations gave this name to Ambohitr'Antsingy: Antsingy reflecting the presence of the Tsingy in the mountain.

The name «Montagne des Français» comes from the existence of a French military fort within the protected area which was used during World War 2. The ruins of this military fort are now a tourist attraction in the protected area.

FLAGSHIP SPECIES

The main ecological values of the NPA Montagne des Français concern both its natural habitats and the flagship species it hosts. There are several types of plant cover including **dry semi-deciduous forest, sub-humid forest or gallery forest, and typical Tsingy vegetation.**

The fauna and flora are characterized by forms endemic to this northern region of Madagascar.



75
SPECIES OF BIRDS



10
SPECIES OF BATS
including 4 classified as vulnerable, among which the Madagascar flying fox



464
SPECIES OF PLANTS
including: 349 endemic to Madagascar (77%) among which 6 are classified as endangered (including 1 species of baobab tree - *Adansonia suarezensis*) and 6 vulnerable including typical plants and endemics of this North region (i.e: *Aloe suarezensis*, *Terminalia crenata*, *Dalbergia suarezensis*) / 13 local endemics (3%) of which 6 are classified as critically endangered, 1 endangered and 2 vulnerable



10
SPECIES OF AMPHIBIANS
including 1 local endemic species classified as vulnerable ; 2 species classified as endangered



4
SPECIES OF LEMURS
including 1 classified as critically endangered (i.e: *Lepilemur septentrionalis*), 2 in danger (i.e: the nocturnal lemur Aye-aye) and 1 vulnerable (*Microcebus tavaratra*)



52
SPECIES OF REPTILES
of which 3 are local endemics, 2 of which are classified as endangered ; 1 species classified as critically endangered, 2 as endangered and 9 as vulnerable



7
SPECIES OF OTHER MAMMALS

The Montagne des Français Protected Area is part of the Orangea Complex with the protected areas of Oranjia (MBG) and Ambodivahibe (CI). Unlike the 2 other protected areas, Montagne des Français is the only protected area in this complex that does not touch the sea.

PROTECTED AREA SPECIFICITIES

LANDSCAPES AND HABITATS



Limestone massif - tsingy, canyon, caves, xerophytic rupicolous vegetation, dry deciduous forest, low thicket, moist semi-deciduous forest, secondary forest, secondary thicket, secondary grassland.

Particularity: Part of the Mountain is used by the Roman Catholic religion as a place of pilgrimage considered as a very important site by the population of Diego City, Ramena and Mahavanona. The PA also offers very old historical sites testifying, on the one hand, the occupation of the French colonists in the Northern part of the Mountain (Anosiravo) and that of the Merinas of the time of RADAMA I located in Ambohimarina, in the Southern part. Existence of sacred places, places of offerings and cults to the ancestors and to God.

PRESSURES AND THREATS



Charcoal making activities, illegal logging for the timber market in Antsiranana, slash-and-burn agriculture, lemur hunting, uncontrolled fires, invasive plants.



ECONOMIC VALUE

The MDF is a **water tower for the city of Antsiranana.**

Tourism activities in the protected area are currently beginning to develop with the construction of **tourist circuits and camping sites** in the protected area itself. This is an opportunity for additional income for the local populations, some of whose members are trained in tourist guiding techniques.

6,363
inhabitants
are directly
benefiting from
the ecosystem
services provided
by the protected
area.

present. The IGAs have been organized in a promising sector and their implementation will benefit more people from the local communities.



FAPBM'S EFFORTS AND RESULTS

The FAPBM's support for the management of Montagne des Français began **in 2015**. The total amount of subsidies to date is **MGA 1,087,349,957**.

The activities put in place since the FAPBM's financing have consisted of **basic conservation activities such as patrols, ecological monitoring, maintenance work and/or implementation of conservation infrastructures (boundaries, firebreaks, barriers, etc.), and ecological restoration of the protected area.**

Development support consists of the implementation of certain IGAs that improve household incomes. These IGAs have been gradually introduced in a value chain dynamic, aiming at the multiplication of beneficiaries and the sustainability of the activity. In MDF, **these value chains are the cultivation of fruit trees and beekeeping,**



LOCAL COMMUNITIES' INITIATIVES

The **local communities** take part in the NPA's conservation activities through their participation in patrol missions, participatory ecological monitoring and firewall installation and maintenance work.

Some members of these local communities have received training in tourist guiding techniques for the promotion of sustainable tourism in the protected area.

The positive economic impact on household incomes of the development activities is not yet significant at



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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).