



# FONDATION POUR LES AIRES PROTEGEES ET LA BIODIVERSITE DE MADAGASCAR

Foundation for the Protected Areas and the Biodiversity of Madagascar

## NEWSLETTER

April 2020

### Protected areas, endangered protective areas

In addition to the health threats it represents, COVID-19 also brings in its path other victims: protected areas. Indeed, the current crisis situation is affecting Madagascar's protected areas. The results of the efforts made so far to conserve them are in jeopardy:

- Some conservation activities may no longer be implemented by the protected areas due to the decrease in their own revenues. In the prevailing context, they can no longer rely on the resources generated by ecotourism. In the absence of tourists visiting national parks, protected areas record a loss of income that generates negative impacts on their management.
- The difficult socio-economic context leads to an intensification of the pressures facing these protected areas. The difficulties of vulnerable populations to provide for their needs lead them to illegally enter protected areas to exploit the resources.



Protected areas thus become victims as they are one of the bulwarks against the emergence of diseases such as COVID-19: by preserving the habitats of wildlife reservoirs of zoonotic pathogens, protected areas prevent the barrier between these animals and humans from being crossed. In light of the stakes involved in their conservation, protected areas must be the object of enhanced and particular attention in the current context.

The FAPBM is already engaged in the sustainable conservation of 35 protected areas and welcomes any collaboration and/or support to increase support for protected areas.

### Setting up of a Support Fund for the Strengthening of New Protected Areas

The FAPBM is strengthening its support to New Protected Areas to make their management more effective, relevant and sustainable through the provision of an additional fund: the Support Fund for the Strengthening of New Protected Areas (SFS - NPA).

The Foundation has so far focused on financing the implementation and setting up of activities directly related to the preservation of protected areas.

By making funding available to NPAs for research, studies or capacity building activities, the FAPBM aims to make its interventions more comprehensive: the SFS-NPA will ultimately improve or ensure the sustainability of the protected area through the additional knowledge that managers will have acquired and thanks to which they will be better able to refocus their intervention strategies.

As the funds available for the Support Fund for Strengthening New Protected Areas are limited, the Foundation will select the applications it considers most relevant.

The SFS-NPA thus complements the two other types of funding that the Foundation already allocates to protected areas for their conservation:

- The fund for protected area conservation and management activities granted to protected areas on the basis of the submission of their Development and Management Plan and annual work plan ;
- The special intervention fund intended to enable the protected area applying for funding to deal with a specific, unpredictable and urgent threat that jeopardizes the ecological integrity of the protected area.

Due to the current context of lockdown, the FAPBM is maintaining its activities through teleworking. The entire Foundation can therefore be reached at the usual numbers and by e-mail.

## Focus on the Nosivolo protected area

The FAPBM has granted a Special Intervention Fund to the Nosivolo protected area to restore order to the management of the site through the operationalisation of a mixed control brigade and the redynamisation and the securing of the Village Conservation Associations. This protected area, managed by the Cercle d'Etude Multidisciplinaire sur l'Environnement et la Santé (CEMES), is the subject of acts of gold panning and illegal fishing which endanger its core area. Those in charge on the spot are also the target of various threats.



*The Nosivolo protected area bears the RAMSAR label and is home to 19 species of fish endemic to Madagascar and considered endangered.*

The fund granted by the Foundation will enable :

- The organization and implementation of the mission of control and restoration of order of the joint control brigade;
- The development of environmental education activities on the legislation governing PA and natural resources, as well as the role of hard cores and ecosystem services;
- The reactivation and operationalisation of the village control and management committee.

### The FAPBM received in audience by the Swiss Ambassador to Madagascar

The President of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation and its Executive Director were received in audience by HEM Chasper Sarott, Ambassador of Switzerland to Madagascar, on March 17th. The purpose of this meeting was to present the Foundation and its activities and to discuss potential paths of collaboration between Switzerland and the Foundation for a better preservation of the protected areas of Madagascar.

### COVID-19: potential threat to Madagascar's lemurs

Madagascar's lemurs could also be a potential threat in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. Indeed, the Madagascar Lemurs Portal reports that the risks are real since wild chimpanzees have presented a respiratory epidemic as a result of the human coronavirus. In this context, the suspension of tourism exposing lemurs and the reduction of research activities are strongly recommended.

The Madagascar Lemurs Portal is an online portal allowing data sharing for a better preservation of lemurs. With the WCS Madagascar and the GERP, the FAPBM is part of the consortium for the management of this project.

### The Fundraising Committee of the FAPBM

The Foundation's Board of Trustees includes a fundraising Committee. This committee, made up of members of the Board of Directors, is in charge of supervising the Foundation's fundraising activities.

According to the FAPBM procedures manual, when the committee members deem it necessary, they may call upon resource persons who are not members of the Board of Directors to advise and support them.

#### Members of the Fundraising Committee of the FAPBM

- President of the Committee : Mr. Uwe Klug
- Members of the Committee: Mr Eric Rakoto Andriantsilavo, Mr James Ranaivoson, Mr Andrew Cooke (external member)

A brainstorming on the conception and implementation of a fundraising campaign - with the objective of better conservation of protected areas through increased financial support from the Foundation - is currently being carried out. A committee has been set up for this purpose with the FAPBM, Madagascar National Parks, USAID Hay-Tao and AHT, the technical assistance of the MNP mandated by KfW.

### Meeting between the FAPBM and the LAFA forum

The Executive Director of the Foundation received Mr. Lovy Rasolofomanana, Country Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society in Madagascar, and delegates of the LAFA Forum on 20 March.

LAFA is the forum for professionals in charge of the management of Madagascar's terrestrial protected areas. Its objective is to support these professionals in terms of training and exchanges to achieve better conservation of Madagascar's protected areas.

The discussions that took place focused on the possible paths for future collaboration between the Foundation and LAFA.

More information on :



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