



FONDATION POUR LES AIRES PROTEGEES

ET LA BIODIVERSITE DE MADAGASCAR

Foundation for the protected areas and biodiversity of Madagascar

# NEWSLETTER

Dec 2020 - Jan 2021 edition

*Dear partners and friends of the FAPBM,*

*The year 2020 has been chaotic, to say the least. But unfortunately, we have to prepare ourselves for a year 2021 that will be even more difficult, both for protected areas and for local communities. Confronted with all these challenges, we must gather our strengths. For we will succeed together, or we will fail together. The FAPBM, aware of its mission and role, will assume its tasks and provide support when and where necessary.*

*At the dawn of a new year, I wish to share with you my conviction: humankind is capable of destruction, but it is also capable of building a better world in harmony with nature. I believe in humankind, which will be able to make the right choice. Happy New Year 2021 to all of you!*

**Alain Liva Raharijaona, Executive Director of FAPBM**

## Conservation International and Global Environment Facility (GEF) responds to the needs of Boeny's protected areas



Conservation International, as a Global Environment Facility Partner Agency, signed a Financing Agreement for an endowment fund of USD 4.5 million in favour of the capital of the FAPBM. The annual revenues from this capital will provide sustainable financing to 5 protected areas in the Boeny region.

The 5 protected areas that will receive funding are : Ankarafantsika National Park (managed by Madagascar National Parks, MNP), the Bay of Baly National Park (managed by MNP), the Mahavavy Kinkony Complex (managed by Asity), the Antrema Biocultural Site (managed by the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, MNHN), and the Bombetoka Beloboka Site (managed by Development and Environmental Law Center, DELC).

Spanning over 580,000 hectares, these 5 protected areas of Boeny, given the diversity of their natural habitats (dry forests, lakes, mangrove swamps, Bismarkia savannah and marshes), are home to an outstanding biodiversity and offer ecosystemic services to the Region's population. The rivers, for example, with their sources, irrigate the great rice fields of Marovoay and Mitsinjo plains.

*"We are grateful to Conservation International and the GEF for their generous donation, which enlightens the importance they attach to Madagascar's biodiversity and protected areas. For the past 15 years, we have been dreaming of a greener Madagascar, and we are eager to preserve our unique biodiversity for future generations. We strive to ensure the sustainability of our funding. Today, thanks to this contribution, we are getting closer to that vision. Starting in 2022, the revenues from this endowment fund will finance the Boeny protected areas for approximately USD 130,000 per year, covering 50% of their recurring costs." said Mr. Alain Liva Raharijaona, Executive Director of the FAPBM. "But, well beyond conservation activities, this project takes into account communities and their livelihoods in its components, which are crucial to the resilience of our protected areas."*

## FAPBM renews its commitment to biodiversity conservation and community support for 2021

The Foundation for Biodiversity and Protected Areas of Madagascar (FAPBM) is committing grants for a total of 10,453,858,118 MGA (2,735,722 USD) to benefit the Madagascar Protected Areas System (SAPM) for the year 2021. This funding is intended to :

- bear the recurrent operations costs, local community development and conservation activities (through annual grants) of 35 protected areas,
- address emergencies that threaten biodiversity and conservation (through the Special Intervention Fund) in protected areas,
- strengthen the capacity of new protected areas (through the Support Fund for Strengthening in New Protected Areas),
- finance an offset program, in 1 protected area,
- finance the extension of marine protected areas.

SAPM has been severely affected by the health restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, which would likely continue until in 2021. Tourism is indeed one of the main sources of income for protected areas. Thus, the financial resources available to the managers have dramatically decreased in the face of growing threats.



## Offset site: Learning mission in Tsitongambarika (Taolagnaro)



FAPBM, Rio Tinto QMM (a mining company) and Asity Madagascar (an NGO) have conducted a joint mission to the Tsitongambarika protected area from November 10th to 17th, 2020. 4 members of the Board of Trustees and 3 members of the executive management have participated in the learning sessions.

The Tsitongambarika rainforest, which hosts the QMM Offset site, is managed by Asity Madagascar. Created in 2008, this protected area covers more than 60,000 hectares. 500 hectares, known as QMM Offset site, are dedicated to offset activities in response to the Net Positive Impact (NPI) strategy of QMM. The FAPBM, in partnership with QMM, has been supporting since 2019 the setting-up of an Offset site in the Agnalazaha (Mahabo Farafangana) protected area, managed by Missouri Botanical Garden, MBG. The purpose of the mission to Tsitongambarika was therefore to understand the management of an Offset site and the monitoring and evaluation indicators.

During the first workshop, QMM explained the modalities of setting up an offset site and the NPI objectives. Then, Asity Madagascar pursued on the implementation of conservation and local economic development activities. Finally, a tour of the Offset site closed the sharing sessions. Asity Madagascar's interventions highlighted the differences between the Offset site and the other parts of the protected area in terms of manager's capacity to carry out conservation activities (ecological monitoring, patrols and control,...). These differences are largely related to the resources, human and material, implemented in the management of the Offset site.

For the FAPBM, offset funds offer innovative financing and an opportunity to diversify its sources of funds.

## FAPBM mission in Complexe Mahavavy Ihotry (CMI)



The FAPBM's monitoring and evaluation, and internal audit mission in Andringitra carried on to the CMI (Morombe in the Atsimo Andrefana Region), managed by Asity from December. Lead by Serge

Ratsirahonana, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, and Eva Ralalarisoa, internal audit officer, the missions happened from December 14th to 18th, 2020. Working sessions with the PA management team highlighted the organizational improvements implemented in recent months. Visits to several key areas of the new protected area (NPA) enabled to see the progress of the conservation activities undertaken. These include mangrove restoration in the northern part of the PA. The results are very encouraging, as the rate of seedling loss is less than 10%. Another monitoring mission is planned in 2021 to support Asity's efforts in the management of this wetland complex.

## Mission of the FAPBM in the Andringitra protected area



A mission of monitoring and evaluation, and of internal audit of the FAPBM took place from December 9th to 12th, 2020 in the Andringitra National Park, a protected area managed by Madagascar National Parks (MNP). 2 members of the Board of Trustees of the FAPBM, as well

as the team of the Madagascar Lemurs Portal project took part in this mission. In view of the sanitary restrictions of 2020, the mission aimed at assessing the practical implementation of the MNP Management Unit and to confirm the achievements of the activities of the annual work plan.

Indeed, the Andringitra National Park has been cut of a large part of its treasury following the closure of the protected areas of the MNP network in 2020. However, the mission found that the conservation status of the main biotopes of the national park is good overall. Fire problems have been brought under control, sparing the hard cores. Only a part of the park, inaccessible because of the insecurity that prevails there, has suffered the damage of these fires. According to park officials, local communities played an important role in fighting the fires.

## GEF6 MPA: A 5-year project to strengthen the governance of marine protected areas of Madagascar



The GEF6 MPA project kick-off workshop was held on November 17th at the Hotel Colbert Antananarivina, Antananarivo. The GEF6-MPA (Global Environment Facility - Marine Protected Areas) project aims to strengthen the governance and management of marine resources in Madagascar through a sustainable and resilient national network of MPAs. The GEF is financing the project for the amount of USD 6,2 million. An implementation consortium including the Ministry of Environment, WWF Madagascar and FAPBM has been set up to monitor the project.

This kick-off workshop brought together the project stakeholders to approve the coordination mechanism for project activities and the annual work plan. The FAPBM, as financial manager, intervened to clarify procedures for the release of funds and financial reporting, through Onintsoa Randrianaivo, its Financial Officer.

For the next five years, the GEF6 MPA project will therefore focus on: (1) the establishment of a comprehensive, representative and sustainable network of coastal and marine protected areas and locally managed marine areas (LMMAs); (2) the establishment of a robust enabling environment for marine protected areas (MPAs) and LMMAs, (3) the improvement of management effectiveness and the contribution of MPAs and LMMAs to sustainable development, and (4) the knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation of MPAs.

## Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Antrema Biocultural Site (Boeny)

The celebration of the 20th year of existence of the Biocultural Site of Antrema was held on October 31st, 2020, in Antrema, near the city of Mahajanga on the West coast of Madagascar. The FAPBM honoured the invitation of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, MNHN, through its Grants Officer, Ranto Randriantsoa. The Malagasy authorities, the French Ambassador, as well as the Ampanjaka, or traditional King, of the Region, and the German Agency, GIZ, were also present.

The Antrema biocultural site, located in the municipality of Katsepy, Boeny region, is a community based protected area co-managed by the MNHN and local communities.

The protected area was created in 2000 at the request of the local communities, notably the royal family in order to protect the local *Propithecus coronatus* species, considered by the Sakalava Marambinty ethnic group as the reincarnation of their ancestors. This cultural specificity makes the site of Antrema the only sanctuary in the world of crowned sifakas

(*Propithecus coronatus*) with 800 of them left.

Since 2015, the FAPBM has been supporting Antrema by financing the management costs essential to the functioning of the protected area. Antrema has also benefited from various funds managed by the FAPBM such as the Helmsley Charitable Trust (2 phases), and the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) for the promotion of ecotourism.

### "Sokake" Photo Contest

The awards ceremony of the "Sokake" photo contest, organized by Turtle Survival Alliance Madagascar, with the support of the FAPBM, took place on December 12th in the Analamanga regional tourism office's gardens in Antananarivo. Through various speakers and various funny and entertaining activities, the organizers highlighted the specificities of the Radiated Turtle and the need to protect it in its natural habitat. As a victim of domestication and illegal trafficking, the radiata turtle is registered on the IUCN Red List.

## Promotion of Madagascar Lemurs Portal

Since the launch of the Lemurs Portal ([www.lemursportal.org](http://www.lemursportal.org)), making the tool available, to all conservation stakeholders, has been one of the project's priorities. In order to promote its use and strengthen lemur conservation through information sharing, several regions of the Great Island have been visited for information and capacity building purposes.



### FRUITFUL MEETINGS WITH CONSERVATION STAKEHOLDERS IN THE DIANA REGION

The North West region of Madagascar, called DIANA region, is a real jewel of biodiversity and that is why a mission took place in this area from November 9th to 15th, 2020, with the aim of making the portal known as a conservation tool. In addition, the mission's objective was to promote the mobile application, operating also off-line, which was recently developed.

The mission focused on three main components : information and sharing workshop on the Madagascar Lemurs Portal with the different institutions working in conservation, information session for the students of the University of Antsiranana, visits of the protected areas of the region (Amber Mountain, French Mountain, Oranjia, Andavakoera Andrafiarana).

*"The participation of the important local institutions during the workshop, the interest shown by the young people in conservation and the warm welcome of the field agents is encouraging for the future of the project, but especially for the future of our lemurs"* said Lova Truong, coordinator of the Lemurs Portal project.

The FAPBM's support to the Lemurs Portal project reflects its commitment to conservation, but also its attachment to Madagascar's unique biodiversity.

### STRENGTHENING OF PARTNERSHIPS WITH VALBIO CENTER OF RANOMAFANA

Within the framework of the promotional campaigns of the Madagascar Lemurs Portal project, partnership agreements have been established with different institutions. Among them is the one realized with the ValBio center of the Ranomafana National Park. Dedicated to research on primate ecology, the Valbio center is recognized as the reference in Southern Africa. Through this collaboration, Lemurs portal team attended, in December 2020, an information session on the major assets of the center as a research campus and on lemurs database systems. They, on their side, presented the mobile application. Available offline, this application allows researchers, tourists, local communities or any other user to access scientific data on this emblematic primate of Madagascar. In collaboration with the FAPBM, the managers of the Andringitra National Park and the Mangoky Ihotry Complex in Morombe also benefited from information sessions about the Portal.

Funded by the Jacob Richard Schramm (JRS) biodiversity foundation in 2016, Madagascar Lemurs Portal is implemented by a consortium involving GERP, WCS Madagascar, and FAPBM. This platform allows access, sharing and exchange of scientific data on lemurs for conservation interest.



## Covid-19: FAPBM supports protected areas and local communities in 2020

The Covid-19 health crisis is worsening the pressures on biodiversity and protected areas. Because of the safety restrictions which have dramatically reduced touristic flows, protected areas have lost significant revenues. This lack of means jeopardizes the conservation activities, leaving biodiversity helpless in front of growing anthropic pressures, due to the economic and social crisis of Madagascar.

It was therefore necessary to intervene in favour of the local communities who live of the forests and defend them, but who are sometimes forced to destroy them to ensure their survival. The FAPBM therefore mobilized MGA 114,000,000 (approximately USD 30,000) in response to the humanitarian emergency. The priority of protected area managers has been to minimize food insecurity, a predictable result of the drop in family income, and also to contribute to sanitation and health needs.

This FAPBM's donation was in addition to emergency funding for three protected areas in Madagascar.

# MGA 114 MILLION

donated

# 6550

direct beneficiaries

# 36

protected areas supported

## HEALTH AND SANITATION



**TRATRY** **HAPPY** **BONNE** **FROHES**  
*ny taona* *Year* *année* *neues* **2021**  
*Year*