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## Message from the Executive Director

Dear friends and partners,

As I write this message, our country is going through a critical period with the Covid-19 pandemic. The social and economic impacts will be disastrous. In this very special context, what should our country's priorities be?

Saving lives is obviously urgent and we must, each at our own level, do what we can to do so. Finding a solution for the most precarious populations affected by the situation is equally urgent. The nation's efforts must be focused on these priorities. But we, as conservationists, also have a duty to protect the future. And the future depends to a large extent on what nature offers us. Without nature, there is no future. Today, more than ever, we have the duty to protect our biodiversity, even if this may seem derisory to some.

Our fight is not easy and many do not understand it. But if we don't do it, who will? If we don't do it now, when will we do it? Our fight is right and we must persevere.

Today, an emergency arises: we have to save the protected area of Menabe Antimena. An article in this newsletter is dedicated to it. Let us act before it is too late.

Alain Liva Raharijaona,  
Executive Director

2021. Involving the private sector and the authorities of the region of Vakinankaratra, this event aimed at setting up a specific CSR plan to the region.

During the conference, the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) presented her views on the future national CSR strategy. MBG then presented the Ibity protected area and its value for the Vakinankaratra region. The FAPBM's participation in this event is part of the forthcoming implementation of mechanisms that would allow the CSR actions of local companies to be oriented towards the protection of biodiversity, through the financing of protected areas.

## The FAPBM, received by the Ambassador of the United Kingdom

The Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Madagascar, H.E. David Ashley, granted audience to the Executive Director of the Foundation, Alain Liva Raharijaona, on March 9th, 2021. The British Ambassador shared with FAPBM UK's willingness to support Madagascar's conservation of its biodiversity. Since the Great Island is one of the countries seriously affected by climate change, the Ambassador stressed the importance of an active participation of Madagascar in the COP26 on climate change (Glasgow, November 2021). Further discussions are planned to explore possible ways of cooperation.



(C) FAPBM

## PARTNERSHIP

### Vakinankaratra businesses mobilized around the Ibity protected area

On the invitation of the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG), Ibity protected area's manager, the Executive Director of FAPBM, Alain Liva Raharijaona, has participated in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Exhibition, organized in Antsirabe on March 23rd,

PROTECTED AREAS

Menabe Antimena in danger: A disaster is looming!



(c) Getty Images

Recent articles in local newspapers have reopened the longstanding issues of the Menabe Antimena Protected Area (APMA). Menabe Antimena, a new protected area of the Menabe region (West of Madagascar), covering the famous Baobab Alley, has lost 40% of its forest cover in barely 10 years[1]. According to WWF Madagascar, at this rate, the Baobab Alley will be no more in 2050[2]. Migration of southerners fleeing drought, illegal corn and peanut cultivation, slash-and-burn agriculture, land clearing, corruption, poverty and climate change are all storms shaking the APMA[1]. Although the causes have been identified, actors are struggling to find sustainable solutions. But what is at stake?

- Jewel of biodiversity, this protected area is one of the most visited natural sites of Madagascar. Hundreds of thousands of annual national and international visitors contribute to job creation and to the improvement of the region's income;
- Dense dry forest constitutes the majority of the surface of the APMA. This forest retains the soil and water thanks to the numerous roots of the plants and thus helps to limit erosion and the risk of drought in the region;
- The baobabs are the only remaining trees, on a large part of the cleared surfaces. But without bats and lemurs, pollinating agents, they are also on the way to extinction. For today, the natural habitats of these animals have almost disappeared;
- In addition to the fact that baobab tree is a formidable water reservoir that can stock up to 100,000 liters in its trunk, the services offered by baobab tree have been known for a long time. The pulp of the fruit is used in traditional medicine (against fever, pain and diarrhea), food processing (juice and natural insecticides), cosmetics;
- Menabe Antimena is also a mangrove forest that plays an important role in mitigating the effects of

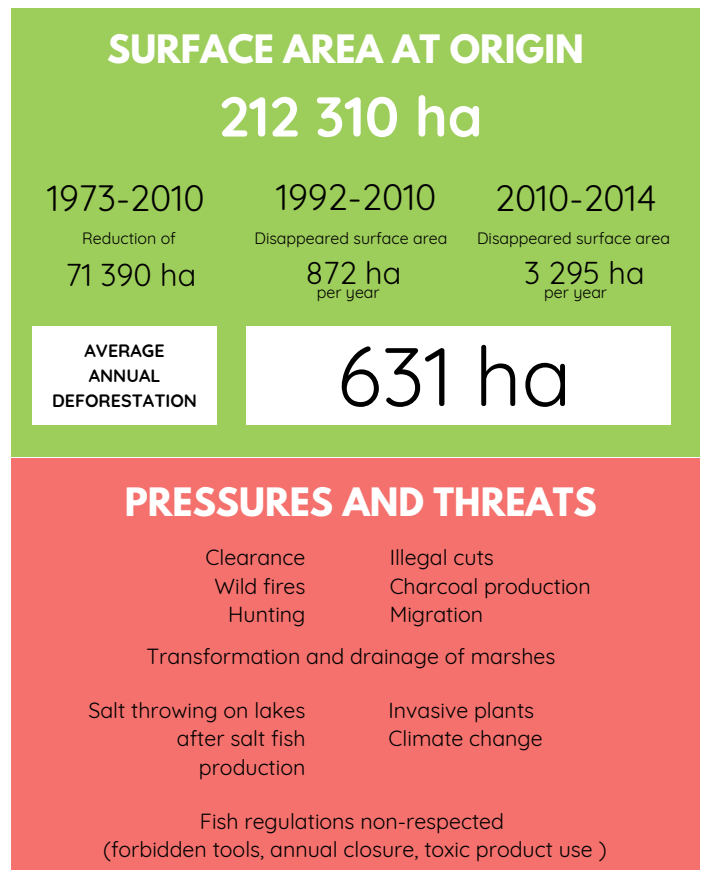
climate change. Not only a carbon sink and reserve, mangroves also protect against marine erosion and other climate hazards, such as floods, droughts and cyclones.

The current destruction of the APMA will lead us straight to a humanitarian catastrophe because tomorrow these populations will have neither resources nor income. Let us save Menabe Antimena!

Source:

[1] Save Menabe Antimena, Kilaza Mars 2020, AVG

[2] [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T\\_oAxzi4Zv0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_oAxzi4Zv0)



## Laodrano, when culture contributes to sustainable management of water resources

In the small village of the Antsalova district (Melaky region, western Madagascar), the Laodrano ceremony is opening the fishing season. After a 7-month break, from November to May (fish spawning period), fishermen are getting ready to take up their canoes, paddles and nets again. Every year, in June, they offer their first fish catch and zebu(s) as a sacrifice to ancestors and God, at the border of the lake Antsamaka, asking this way for their blessing. This ancestral tradition has greatly contributed to the sustainable management of the fisheries resources of the Tsimembo Manambolomaty protected area (PA).

This PA includes ecosystems such as the dry forests of Tsimembo, the savannahs and the four large lakes of Befotaka, Soamalipo, Ankerika and Antsamaka, tributary of the Manambolomaty river. In 2020, nearly 293 fishermen and their families depend on the lake complex. Organized in associations, they participate in the control and surveillance activities of the protected area.

Since 2011, the FAPBM has been supporting the management of Tsimembo Manambolomaty PA. Thanks to this support, The Peregrine Fund, the managing NGO, has become involved in the organization of this fishing activity. In particular, fiberglass pirogues were offered to the fishermen, thus avoiding the use of forest wood for their manufacture. Similarly, villagers have been provided with large-mesh nets in line with conventional standards to ensure the sustainability of this activity. In 2020, local production of fresh fish amounted to 207.458 tons, and dried fish to 16.7 tons. The association sells its production on the markets of Morondava, Antsirabe and Antananarivo.

To support fishermen's associations :  
radonatien2@gmail.com



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## DIVERSE

### FAPBM, member of the Board of ARSIE

The General Assembly (GA) of the Association of the Environmental Information Systems Network (ARSIE) was held on March 11th, 2021, in Antananarivo. At this meeting, FAPBM, represented by the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Serge Ratsirahonana, was elected as a permanent board member for a two-year term. ARSIE is a coordination and consultation platform for organizations and resource persons who own or use information related to environment.

The ARSIE's annual GA is an opportunity to present the annual report of the past year and the action plan for the current year. The 2021 GA has added the election of the Board to its agenda. The following persons/institutions are part of it:

- Andry RAKOTOMANJAKA (FAO consultant), as President,
- Voninavoko RAMINOARISOA (Asity), as Vice-president,
- Pierre RAHAGALALA (ONE), as Treasurer,
- MEDD, WCS, VAHATRA Association, WRI-Hay Tao, FAPBM, as Advisors.

Since 2018, the FAPBM has joined this efforts of Malagasy civil society to gather reliable data about biodiversity conservation, and thus be able to sharpen its own advocacy.

Learn more : [www.arsie.mg](http://www.arsie.mg)

### Launch of the evaluation of the 2017-2021 strategic plan

The FAPBM strategic plan 2017-2021 is coming to its end this year. The Foundation is therefore initiating a final evaluation of the results in order to develop a new strategic plan for the next five years. In view of the context and the new challenges relating to biodiversity and protected areas, the Foundation would like its future strategy to respond in a relevant way to the problems of its beneficiaries.

As a reminder, the 2017-2021 strategic Plan has set the overall objective of financing one third of the needs of protected areas in 2021. This objective was based on 3 main strategies:

- **Strategy 1:** Increased sources of revenue for biodiversity protection and protected areas;
- **Strategy 2:** Efficient use of the funding distributed;
- **Strategy 3:** Increasing the effectiveness of protected areas.

# MADAGASCAR LEMURS PORTAL

## FROM INFORMATION TO CONSERVATION OF LEMURS



In 2021, 31% of lemur species are in critical danger of extinction according to the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Jewel of Madagascar's biodiversity, 100% endemic, and crucial players in forest regeneration, lemurs are victims of illegal hunting and, above all, of the depletion of their natural habitat.

The consideration of biodiversity data into the stakeholders' decisions-making process is one of the challenges in lemurs' conservation. To meet this challenge, Madagascar Lemurs Portal, through its website, has been working since 2016 to better disseminate information on lemurs. As a platform for exchanging and sharing data, the portal serves as a link between lemur conservation stakeholders: students, scientific community, activists, authorities, citizens, etc.

Funded until March 31st, 2021 by the JRS Biodiversity Foundation, the project is implemented by a consortium made up of FAPBM, WCS Madagascar, GERP and IUCN. But today, its future is uncertain.

The consortium is launching a call for contributions for a long-term sustainability of the portal.

**USE THE ANDROID MOBILE APPLICATION**  
**"MADAGASCAR LEMURS PORTAL"**

[WWW.LEMURSPORTAL.ORG](http://WWW.LEMURSPORTAL.ORG)

### FROM 2016



COMPLETE RECORDS OF **112** LEMUR SPECIES



**30** LEMURS' EXPERTS FOR DATA VALIDATION



**+1 200** RESEARCH PAPERS ABOUT LEMURS



CARTOGRAPHIC VISUALISATION



**+16 000** DATA FROM THE OBSERVATIONS OF LEMURS



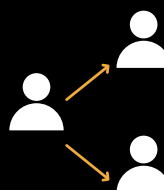
**+72 000** VISITORS OF THE PORTAL

**+500** REGISTERED USERS



**+20** THEMES ON THE ONLINE FORUM

**+400** PEOPLE INFORMED WITH INFORMATION SESSIONS



**15** CAPACITY BUILDING



**8** REGIONS VISITED