

PROTECTED AREAS

Nosivolo: emergency funds to preserve hard core from gold panners

GOVERNANCE

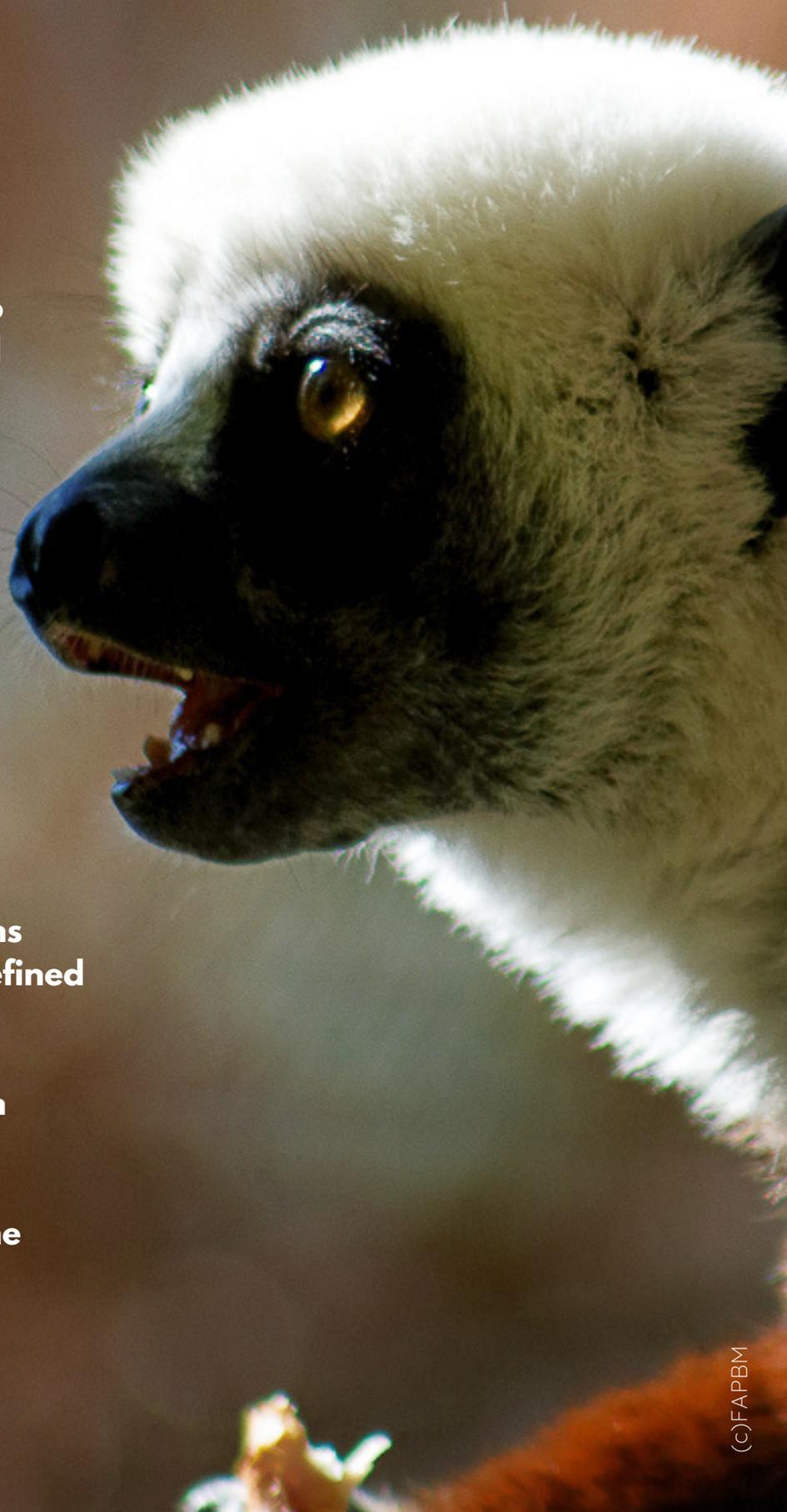
Due Diligence, a Must for new protected areas to be funded

PARTNERSHIP

Coordination of FAPBM actions with the country priorities, defined by MEDD

A fire management tool put in place by MEDD

FAPBM at the 6th edition of the CSR&SDI fair



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Nosivolo: emergency funds to preserve hard core from gold panners



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In 2020, the New Protected Area (NPA) of Nosivolo benefited from an emergency fund (FIS) to stop massive clearing by gold miners, which threatened to reach the hard core. M. Ramahefasoa Bellarmin, project manager at the Cercle d'Etude Multidisciplinaire sur l'Environnement et la Santé (CEMES), the protected area manager, answered our questions.

Q: To start, can you present the Nosivolo New protected area?

A: Located in the East of Madagascar, Nosivolo NPA is a network of rivers, the main one named Nosivolo. As an aquatic conservation area, the NPA is home to 19 endemic species of fish. The terrestrial part is characterized by gallery forests.

Nosivolo irrigates cultivation land and supplies with drinking water the localities between Marolambo and Mahanoro. Its tributaries also provide aquatic resources for local fishing.

Q: Can you tell us more about the reasons why you applied for a FIS?

A: In 2020, illicit gold panning activities occurred in the vicinity of the core area. By disrupting water transparency, these activities disturbed fish spawning and increased the risk of silting of rivers. The well-being of the surrounding communities was therefore threatened and a joint brigade intervention was urgently needed.

During previous meetings with conservation colleagues,

we had heard about an emergency funding mechanism provided by FAPBM. A testimony from the Bongolava NPA manager on the radio made us decide to submit an application at that time.

Q: What steps did you take?

A: We contacted the Foundation, and they sent us the forms that we filled out and submitted. Everything was done by phone and email. It was really quick, less than 2 weeks. The Foundation was responsive to the emergency situation, regardless of the fact that this was the first funding we applied for.

We requested the sum of MGA 19,658,000 (USD 5,000) for the organization of patrols of the Mixed Control Brigade, the revitalization and securing of the 94 conservation associations of communities, co-manager of the protected area. We fully obtained the requested funding.

Q: What is the current status of the situation?

Currently, the situation is stabilizing. On a daily basis, we are managing to control intrusions into the core area (gold panners and farmers) in close collaboration with the Joint Conservation Brigade and the communities.

Q: Would you add precision about this funding?

A: Although FAPBM guides the process, I advise protected areas that wish to apply for this type of funding to have a dedicated financial office, available on field.



BENEFIT FROM OUR ONE-SHOT FUNDING

For more information contact us

FUND TO SUPPORT CAPACITY BUILDING OF NEW PROTECTED AREAS (FAR-NAP)

WHAT Research, studies, acquisition of new technologies (SMART, remote sensing and GIS, aerial tracking, GLAD, ...), etc. necessary following a change of context

WHO? Protected area with final status

FUND FOR EMERGENCY (FIS)

WHAT? Unplanned but necessary activities to address one-time, unpredictable and urgent threats to the viability or ecological integrity of the protected area

WHO? Protected area with final status

GOVERNANCE

Due Diligence, a Must for new protected areas to be funded



(C) FAPBM

Thanks to recent capital contributions from Agence Française du Développement (AFD) and Conservation International, FAPBM will be able to increase the number of protected areas receiving annual grants. Starting in 2022 and 2023, new sites will be added to the 30 protected areas currently funded. FAPBM staff are then currently conducting due diligence missions on previously identified sites.

Due diligence is a prerequisite for the granting of funding. It meets the requirements of good governance to which the Foundation wishes to respond. Its objective is to evaluate the risks associated with financing a manager of a selected protected area. There are multiple points to validate in this framework and they differ according to the type of funding.

In the case of an annual recurrent grant, technical planning, financial management, auditing, environmental and social safeguards, and monitoring and evaluation will be studied in depth. Following a review of the protected area's working documents provided by the manager, the Foundation's technical team conducts a field mission. The objective of this mission is to interview the managers, cross-check the information provided in the documents, and verify the existence of the management structure and the resources at its disposal. A report is then issued to the manager, detailing the recommendations. All of this gives the manager the opportunity to make the necessary adjustments before the funding starts.

In the case of one-shot financing (Emergency fund (FIS) or New Protected Areas Capacity Building Support Fund (FAR-NAP)), financial management, auditing, and environmental and social safeguards will be particularly evaluated. No field visits are conducted in this context. However, a report is written and sent to the manager for possible adjustments.

PARTNERSHIP

Coordination of FAPBM actions with the country priorities, defined by MEDD



(C)MEDD

The FAPBM participated in a consultation workshop for the elaboration of the framework document and the ten-year action plan of the Environment and Sustainable Development Sector (PSEDD). This document, which will serve as a roadmap for the Environment and Sustainable Development Sector, was first presented on June 17th, 2021. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) was therefore keen to bring together stakeholders to ensure synergy and complementarity of interventions at different levels.

As the Foundation's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan is currently being developed, this presentation on the strategic axes of the MEDD's Vision 2030 will feed into the ongoing discussions. The Vision 2030 has 5 priority objectives based essentially on the sustainable management of natural resources (especially soil, fauna and flora) through, on the one hand, the restoration of landscapes and forests which would be closely linked to adaptation and mitigation measures to the effects of climate change and, on the other hand, the development of resources in the field of the Green Economy and the Blue Economy. Protected areas play a key role in achieving this Vision.

A fire management tool put in place by MEDD

In 2020, the number of fire points throughout Madagascar has increased by more than 183% compared to 2019. Although FAPBM-funded protected areas were not spared, less than 20% of these fires affected their hard cores. Protected areas in the MNP network were more affected than NPAs. Fires still remain one of the main threats to protected areas.

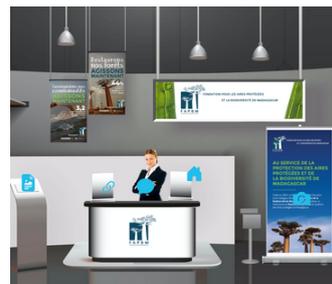
MEDD, in partnership with GIZ, has just launched a geoportal for fire monitoring. This portal was presented to stakeholders on July 23rd, 2021. FAPBM was

represented by Ms. Bodonirina Nathalie, the data analyst. This tool features forecasting and early alert systems, active fire monitoring systems, and monthly and annual burned area monitoring systems at the national level, with information at different levels (national, regional and communal). The objective is that each stakeholder, especially at the local level, is informed about what happens in case of fire, to know what they can do and how they should react, and to have the necessary means to deal with the situation. The launch of the portal is part of the finalization of the national fire management strategy. This one is articulated around 4 main axes : the institutional mechanism for a good governance, the sharing and dissemination of tools for local governance, the monitoring of the respect of territorial planning and the provision of adequate and sufficient means for active control. A particular point on the necessity of repression in case of fires in the PAs was raised, as one of the supporting principles of the national strategy.



(C)MEDD

FAPBM at the 6th edition of the CSR&SDI fair



FAPBM supported the holding of the 6th edition of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainable Development Initiatives (SDI) fair, which took place exclusively online on July 15th and 16th, 2021.

The topic "Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Focus on Climate Change and Strategic Community Investments" chosen this year, was developed through several webinar sessions that highlighted local private sector CSR initiatives.

For the private sector, FAPBM proposes offset financing, specifically dedicated to companies, alongside its traditional financing instruments. This mechanism allows companies to offset the residual negative impacts of their projects after avoidance and mitigation measures have been taken. A first experience for FAPBM was developed with QMM Rio Tinto and allows to finance the Agnalazaha protected area. Visit our stand [here](#).