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## A message from the President of the Board of Trustees



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Dear friends and partners from biodiversity conservation,

It is a great honour for me to assume the presidency of the Foundation from June 4th, 2021. My first words are to thank two members of our Board of Trustees who have reached the end of their terms and are therefore leaving us this month: Mrs Sahondra Rajoelina, outgoing President, whose commitment to nature conservation and leadership enabled the Foundation to carry out its mission to support protected areas during a period of unprecedented health crisis, and Mrs Naritiana Rakotoniaina whose tireless efforts as President of the financing committee have laid a solid foundation for ever more effective management of protected areas on the field.

I would also like to welcome our two new trustees, Mr Fredy Rajaonera Andriambelo, a well-known figure from the private sector in Madagascar and Mr Bruno Rajaspera, another well-known figure, this time from the world of nature conservation.

The pandemic has affected protected areas on several fronts: increased threats, reduced revenues from tourism, dramatic economic and social consequences on local communities, etc. More than ever, we need to roll up our sleeves and work together to save what remains of our country's natural ecosystems!

Nanie Ratsifandriamanana  
Président of the Board of Trustees

*Mrs Ny Anitry Ny Aina RATSIFANDRIHAMANANA is currently, Country Director of the World Wide Fund for Nature - Madagascar after being a Conservation Director of this latter. During her career, she has always been working to promote WWF and environmental conservation projects, both internationally and nationally. Nanie Ratsifandriamanana is part of several research, action and reflection circles, related to environment and conservation, including the Vahatra Association, the protected areas and categorization commission within IUCN and the editorial of Madagascar Conservation and Development Newspaper. She also co-directed the Commission on Protected Areas in Madagascar.*

*She holds a degree in Environmental Education and Communication from Cornell University (USA). She previously served as Vice President of the Board of Directors for two years before her election as President on 4th of June.*

## GOVERNANCE

### Get to know the new members of the Board of Trustees

#### Fredy RAJAONERA ANDRIAMBELO



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Fredy RAJAONERA ANDRIAMBELO currently holds positions of high responsibility within several companies : Deputy Director-General of Chocolaterie Robert, manager of the general agency Ramanandraibe of

the insurance company ARO, and Director of the agricultural and real estate management company Zafitsara S.A. Committed to entrepreneurship, former President of the Syndicat des Industries de Madagascar, he is the President of the Board of Mirakap Investments, which supports companies projects with social impact. He is one of the founders of the Initiative for Development, Ecological Restoration and Innovation or INDRI.

Fredy RAJAONERA ANDRIAMBELO is an alumnus of the Institut des Hautes Études Internationales of the University of Paris I.

**Bruno Tsing Yat RAJASIPERA**



Currently Director of Community Resource Support at Conservation International - Madagascar, Bruno Tsing Yat RAJASIPERA provides strategic and cross-cutting support to Conservation International Madagascar's

program to develop the landscape management approach and lead the biodiversity offset project funded by the mining company Ambatovy. He has a long history as a coordinator of large-scale environmental projects for USAID and DELL Corporation.

He has developed expertise in community development for conservation and has written several publications on the subject, most recently: "Developing a resilient co-management arrangement for protected areas: field experience of the Ankeniheny-Zahamena corridor in Madagascar" for Madagascar, Human Dimensions of Wildlife.

Bruno Tsing Yat RAJASIPERA holds an engineering degree in agronomy from the Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Agronomiques of the University of Antananarivo.

**Former and new members of the Board of Trustees during the handover ceremony on June 4th, 2021**



From left to right :

Ratafika DIMBINDRAIBE, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister in charge of Environmental and Social/Health  
 Hary Tiana RAHAINGOALISON, Agronomist, specialist in coordination and follow-up of international projects in Madagascar

Hanta Zo RAKOTOVAO, Head of the Legal and Regulatory Department at Orange Madagascar

Fredy RAJAONERA ANDRIAMBELO (incoming member), Deputy General Director of Chocolaterie Robert

Eric RAKOTO-ANDRIATSILAVO, Executive Secretary of the Integrated Growth Poles Project (IGP) of the World Bank

Naritiana RAKOTONIAINA (outgoing member), Executive Director of the NGO Environmental Management Support Service (SAGE)

Nanie RATSIFANDRIHAMANANA, (new President), Country Director of WWF - Madagascar

Sahondra RAJOELINA (outgoing member), Country Director, Conservation International - Madagascar

Bruno Tsing Yat RAJASIPERA (incoming member), Director of Community Resource Support for Conservation International - Madagascar

Mamitiana ANDRIAMANJATO, Executive of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, former Director of Sustainable Financing, specialist in climate change and REDD+.

James RANAIVOSON (based in Luxemburg, not in the picture), Former Management Advisor of the European Investment Bank

**Meeting of the new FAPBM Executive Board with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)**

The new members of the Executive Board, Nanie RATSIFANDRIHAMANANA (President), Ratafika DIMBINDRAIBE (Vice-President) and Fredy RAJAONERA ANDRIAMBELO (Treasurer), accompanied by Alain Liva Raharijaona, Executive Director of the FAPBM, paid a courtesy visit to Madam Minister Baomiatse Vahinala Raharinirina, on Friday, June 25th, 2021. This meeting reflects the strengthening of the collaboration between the Ministry and the Foundation. During the handover ceremony, Mrs. Ratsifandrihamanana emphasized the need to work together with the nation's active forces to meet the challenges of conservation. The experience and the diversity of expertise of the FAPBM's collaborators, she said, are mobilized in support of the preservation of biodiversity and the MEDD, the main guarantor of this natural capital. Madam Minister specified that "the MEDD and the FAPBM are inseparable and interdependent. I wish you all a great success", according to the publication on her Facebook page.



## The FAPBM, member of the BIOFIN steering committee

Set up following the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP-10) during the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Biodiversity Finance Initiative or BIOFIN is a multi-country program dedicated to support the research of sustainable financing for biodiversity. Under the leadership of UNDP, the program now includes some thirty member States, including Madagascar since 2017.

FAPBM has joined the steering committee of BIOFIN Madagascar in 2020, making the most of its expertise in the financing of the protected areas network. In this context, the Foundation has participated in a series of meetings exploring innovative financing mechanisms for biodiversity, including crowdfunding. In this context, the FAPBM model was presented at a BIOFIN regional meeting for Africa on October 5th, 2020, as an organization involved in resilience in biodiversity conservation.

To learn more about BIOFIN, follow the [link](#).



## Avahi - WWF - FAPBM : Biodiversity, What are the challenges in Madagascar?

More than 1/3 of Madagascar's wealth comes from its natural capital. Through the services it provides (maintaining the water cycle, ensuring soil fertility, preventing the spread of greenhouse gases, etc.), nature contributes to and is essential for meeting development needs. There should be no conflict between sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. However, challenges remain: Madagascar's demographic growth, estimated at 3% per year (among the highest in the world), climate change, of which our fellow citizens in the south of Madagascar are currently victims (coping with an extreme phenomenon, the drought), and the pandemic (which will tend to recur, according to studies).

This is how Mrs. Nanie RATSIFANDRIHAMANANA's speech, can be summarised during a webinar organized by the CSR firm consultancy and NGO AVAHI. At the invitation of Mrs. Aina RAKOTOARISOA, President and Director of Avahi, The President of the Board of FAPBM provided answers on the prevailing topic of "Biodiversity: what are the challenges in Madagascar?"

During this event, she clarified the Foundation's funding mechanism to support protected areas on conservation, financial sustainability and community development actions. "Multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, multi-level, integrated and inclusive solutions will be the most effective and efficient [to address the multiple challenges outlined above]", she concluded.

Missed the webinar? The replay is still available [here](#).



## PROTECTED AREAS

### FAPBM granted an exceptional support of MGA 2.7 billion in favour of Madagascar National Parks (MNP)



(c) Getty Images/deniswv

FAPBM has signed a financing agreement in favour of Madagascar National Parks (MNP) for an amount of MGA 2,714,238,754. With its annual budget reduced by 35% due to the tourism paralysis, MNP faces a significant funding gap that threatens the conservation of Madagascar's natural heritage.

The amount allocated by the Foundation will benefit 17 protected areas (for a total size of 1,422,488 ha), including those of Bemaraha, Andringitra, Ranomafana and Masoala, which have been classified as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. In addition to their value for tourism, these national parks have an economic importance for the communities. For example, the forests of Ranomafana National Park supply the water tank of the Namorona hydroelectric station, which is located near the park. Masoala Park protects the river systems and water

sources feeding the basins of the region and part of the Andapa basin. The Andringitra National Park is home to numerous water sources that irrigate the plains of the Ihorombe Plateau in the south part of Madagascar.

The preservation of these natural resources is becoming an urgent necessity in view of the rising threats. The level of threats inside the MNP protected areas funded by the FAPBM has jumped between 2019 and 2020. The number of fire points in MNP protected areas increased from 610 to 1,169 over the same period. Recent studies have shown that, on any health crisis the country suffered, people turn to natural resource exploitation for survival. Protected areas are then among the first targets. However, the heart of the forests, also known as the hard core, has been spared thanks to control and surveillance systems.

This exceptional funding from the FAPBM in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, is in line with the exceptional funds released in 2020 in support of the neighbouring

communities of the 36 protected areas financed by the FAPBM for up to MGA 114 million as well as emergency funding to 5 New Protected Areas (NPAs) of MGA 188 million. In 2021, in the case of MNP in particular, this comes in addition to the annual grants awarded at the beginning of the year for an amount of MGA 5.9 billion.

The new President of the FAPBM Board of Trustees, Mrs. Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana said "The role of the Foundation as an instrument for sustainable financing of protected areas is more crucial than ever in times of crisis. True to our mission, we are and will continue to listen to protected area managers and local communities to support them in these difficult times. Investing in protected areas is investing in a sustainable future and we hope that these areas and the communities around them will be an integral part of the post-crisis economic and social recovery efforts."

## A LOOK BACK ON THE BIODIVERSITY DAY CELEBRATION IN PROTECTED AREAS MAY 22ND, 2021

Part of the FAPBM's funding for New Protected Areas (NPAs) is dedicated to conservation, and supports information, education and communication activities around conservation. This includes the celebration of international days.



Mangrove restoration in Antrema Aranta - © MNHN



Mangrove restoration in Antafiabe Antrema - © MNHN



Mangrove restoration in Antrema Aranta - © MNHN



Mangrove restoration in Amborokarato, Loky Manambato - © Fanamby

