

## PROTECTED AREAS' ECONOMIC VALUE

The first Forum on Ecological Accounting and Natural Capital in Madagascar

## AGNALAZAHA PA

Monitoring and evaluation mission to Agnalazaha NPA from February 22nd to 28th, 2021

Focus on the Vaiavy tsy tambo association (Agnalazaha)

## CLIMATE CHANGE

La FAPBM mobilisée pour le Fonds Vert pour le Climat (FVC)

## 21 MARS 2021

FAPBM mobilized for the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

**LEMURS PORTAL: "Good news in bad times," welcome to *Microcebus jonahi***



## PROTECTED AREAS' ECONOMIC VALUE

### The first Forum on Ecological Accounting and Natural Capital in Madagascar



(C) FAPBM

FAPBM has participated in the first Forum on Accounting and Economic Valuation of Natural Capital. The Foundation has been represented by its Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Serge Ratsirahonana. Under the high patronage of the Ministry of Environment, this forum which was organized by WWF Madagascar and the USAID Hay Tao Program, took place in Antananarivo on March 18th and 19th, 2021. Representatives from the Ministries of Energy and Mines, Economy and Finance, Higher Education and Research, local and foreign stakeholders from the Environment, Sustainable Development and the private sector were present. The main objective of WWF to make Natural Capital Accounting as a cross-sectoral issue was thus achieved.

Six (6) sessions were held during the Forum:

- 1.The overview of the current situation;
- 2.Accounting and valuation of natural capital;

- 3.Natural capital and ecosystem services;
- 4.Natural capital and sustainable use;
- 5.Natural capital and private sector involvement;
- 6.Other panels on natural capital sustainability.

At the end of the Forum, a platform for the follow-up of the discussions was set up. The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development officially closed the Forum by calling for a collective effort, emphasizing that common success is not the aggregation of individual successes.

#### Pre-forum: Training on Natural Capital Assessment

This Forum was preceded by a two-day training (March 16th and 17th) on the Natural Capital Valuation (NCV) and its appreciation (NCA), intended for technicians and scientists from stakeholders from the conservation and sustainable development sectors, as well as the private sector. The topics covered were:

- 1.The presentation of the EANC (Ecosystem Accounting of Natural Capital) tool
- 2.The NCV (Natural Capital Valuation) guide context
- 3.Assessment and decision making (C3EDM):
- 4.The presentation of the Science-Based Targets for Nature initiative.

The entire Forum can be viewed here:

Day 1: <https://fb.watch/4phyXe85xE/>

Day 2: <https://fb.watch/4phBqo7t9S/>

#### Natural Capital and Ecosystem Service

Session 3 of the Forum dealt with Natural capital and ecosystem services and was chaired by Alain Liva Raharijaona, Executive Director of FAPBM. The session addressed the economic appreciation of protected areas through good governance, the economic valuation of Makira-Masoala ecosystem services and the economic values of protected areas.

FAPBM presented the preliminary results of a major study on the economic value of protected areas. The first figures gave values to the contribution of services such as water, carbon sequestration, tourism and energy. The examples of the protected areas of Mahavavy-Kinkony, Antrema, Ankarafantsika, Ranomafana and Andasibe were highlighted.

# AGNALAZAHA PA

## Monitoring and evaluation mission to Agnalazaha NPA from February 22nd to 28th, 2021



(C) FAPBM

A FAPBM monitoring and evaluation mission took place at the Agnalazaha NPA, managed by Missouri Botanical Garden, MBG, in February 2021. This was the 2nd FAPBM mission to Agnalazaha since the funding for the first time of this NPA in 2020. The first mission was a due diligence mission in 2019 before the implementation of the QMM Offset funding.

This year’s mission was organized jointly with QMM. FAPBM’s delegates included the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, the Internal Audit Officer, the Grants Officer, and the Communication and Advocacy Officer. The objective of the mission was to make a follow-up of the activities and achievements on site, according to the implementation plan of the funding agreement, to assess the implementation of measures to minimize and compensate for impacts on biodiversity conservation, and to monitor the indicators (QH-quality hectare and DU- Distribution Index) characteristic of offset grants.

Site visits (coastal forests and local communities) were therefore conducted. It was observed that the coastal forests have experienced an increase in the number of fire points in 2020, particularly during the sanitary emergency period. Ecological restoration appears to be difficult, given the low survival rate of shrubs (10%).

While meeting with the communities, the team observed that the changes and impacts of the development activities on the well-being of the beneficiaries are not yet visible. For example, activities implemented in 2020 have been abandoned by beneficiaries in one site. FAPBM continually encourages managers to conduct opportunity studies to improve the effectiveness of offset activities.

### Focus on the Vaiavy tsy tambo association (Agnalazaha)

The blows of the pestle follow one another and are similar. A young girl piles a bunch of mahampy. A wild plant present in the PA of Agnalazaha, mahampy is the raw material needed to weave mats, bags, hats and other handicrafts in this southern region of Madagascar. Basketry is the ancestral heritage of the women of the Manakara region. This know-how is a pride for the Antesaka families.

In order to limit intrusions into the parks, MBG, the manager of the protected area, has encouraged families to cultivate mahampy in their fields. This served the dual purpose of securing raw materials and conserving the protected area. MBG then provided training to Vaiavy tsy tambo, an association of handicraftsmen, in which women gathered. As a result, they were able to improve their art, diversify their products, and offer a quality range for the international market. Following a value chain approach, MBG linked the association with the Blessing Basket organization, which distributes the items in the United States.

Mahampy weaving has greatly contributed to the empowerment of the women of Agnalazaha. By contributing significantly to household income, they have gradually gained the right to voice their opinions and take part in decision-making. The women can earn up to MGA 600,000 (155 USD) for each order, considering that 2 containers per year are sent to the United States. This additional contribution of women to the household income is an important factor in reducing deforestation inside protected areas. This has reduced the amount of slash-and-burn cultivation and the sale of firewood.

The Vaiavy tsy tambo association now has nearly 250 members. They continue their efforts to develop new clients. And they are also looking for alternatives for leather and dyeing, for which they often have to source in the capital city Antananarivo.

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(C) MBG/Agnalazaha

(C) FAPBM



# CLIMATE CHANGE

## FAPBM mobilized for the Green Climate Fund (GCF)



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Being an island nation, Madagascar is exposed to strong climate disturbances. Protected areas are the best means of adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts. This is particularly the case of the protected areas of the west and northeast coast (Loky Manambato, Antrema, Bay of Baly and CMK, Kirindy Mitea ...) which are home to large areas of mangroves. These offer protection against drought, floods and cyclones. Convinced that protected areas are a nature-based solution, the Foundation is committed to the fight against climate change.

### Submission to the call for expressions of interest for the Green Climate Fund accreditation

FAPBM has expressed its interest in being among the accredited entities for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The National Office for Climate Change and REDD+ (BNCCREDD+), as the national agency (NAD) designated by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, is in charge of the evaluation and the establishment of a primarily short list. The objective of the Foundation is to be able to broaden its sources of funding and diversify its areas of intervention for the protected areas.

### Alignment with the national climate change policy

The Foundation has participated in a workshop organized by the MEDD-BNCCREDD+ and Conservation International to present the CBIT Madagascar project on February 2nd, 2021 in Antananarivo. The CBIT Madagascar project aims to develop and strengthen Madagascar's capacity to implement the transparency elements of the Paris Agreement. Targeting the Forestry

and Biodiversity sector, the presentation brought together protected area managers and their technical and financial partners. As a follow-up of the workshop, the participants will contribute to the database on the monitoring of the results of the initiatives within the framework of the fight against Climate Change. The coherence of the forestry policy/strategy with the climate national agenda was also encouraged. The discussions, in which the Grants Officer, Ranto Randriantsoa contributed, will enable FAPBM to adjust its climate change policy.

### Participation in the national consultancy for the elaboration of the country program for the Green Climate Fund

The FAPBM participated in a national consultancy for the elaboration of a country program for Madagascar, prior to a submission to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), organized in Antananarivo on March 18th and 19th. The country program will structure Madagascar's priority projects and programs in line with the GCF investment criteria and national priorities. Organized by the BNCC-REDD+, this workshop brought together multi-sectoral stakeholders in view of identifying national priorities to address the effects of climate change. The consultation allowed FAPBM to learn about the GCF funding mechanism, understand the roles and responsibilities of the different parties (NAD, accredited entity, project implementing entity) and analyze funding opportunities for strengthening protected area management through GCF funding. It was also an opportunity to communicate to the participants the importance of protected areas in the fight against climate change as they are part of both the adaptation and mitigation process while ensuring the survival of local populations and even beyond. The Foundation was represented by Ranto Randriantsoa, our Grants Officer.



(c) FAPBM / Forêts de Makira

## 21st of March : International Day of Forests



(C) FAPBM

For the International Day of Forests, a team from FAPBM, including the Audit Officer Evah Ralalarisoa, and the Communication Officer, Roda Operman, and Rina Rabeony, communication Officer of Lemurs Portal, attended the celebration organized by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in the Ambatofotsy forest station. During a military ceremony, the bravery and dedication of the Water and Forestry agents were honoured. Faced with the pressures of protected areas, they are often exposed to danger. A silvicultural maintenance closed the ceremony, during which the Minister stressed the importance of pruning and thinning after each reforestation.

More than 95,000 ha of Madagascar's natural forests are lost each year, representing a deforestation rate of 1.1%. This rate was 0.42% in FAPBM-funded protected areas in 2019. Restoring lost or degraded areas around or in protected areas is critical to rebuilding natural habitats, and most importantly, to ensure that forests can continue to provide services essential to human life. Protected area managers act at 2 levels in protected areas: reforestation and ecological restoration. In 2021, FAPBM is dedicating 4% of its funding to ecological restoration



**SUPPORT FUND FOR CAPACITY BUILDING OF NPA**

### LEMURS PORTAL: "Good news in bad times," welcome to Microcebus jonahi

The film on the discovery of the new lemur species *Microcebus jonahi* was officially presented to the public on March 12th, by the GERP association. Several years of research were necessary to make this discovery. The dedication and courage of Professor Jonah Ratsimbazafy made the difference during this laborious research. That's why, the researchers unanimously decided to name the new lemur species after him, as the Professor is also known as a strong advocate and spokesperson for lemurs.

*Microcebus jonahi* is thus added to the family of *Microcebus*, one of the smallest lemurs in the world, living in the forests of the North of Mananara National Park. The identification of this new species is a "good news in bad times". And in particular a source of hope in the field of research, after the release of the update of the Red List of the IUCN in 2020 alerting that 98% of lemur species are in danger of disappearing.

Co-founder of the Lemurs Portal project, Prof Jonah Ratsimbazafy took advantage of this ceremony to call for support of the project. For 5 years, Lemurs Portal has been building a database, contributing significantly to conservation and research on lemurs. This appeal was reinforced by the Executive Director of FAPBM, Alain Liva Raharijaona: "Now is the time, to all nature lovers and lemurs lovers in particular, let's make Madagascar a heaven for lemurs".

Discover the films: <https://fb.watch/4o3tar66Y9>

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