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Dear partners, Dear friends of the Foundation,

This has been another year during which protected areas have shown resilience coping with the increasing threats on natural resources. FAPBM has stand on its responsibilities through its annual grants and exceptional funding to give managers the means to fulfill their dual mission of protecting biodiversity and supporting local communities. But we must be realistic, these means are still far from sufficient.

However, 2022 is a hopeful time for protected areas. Madagascar has strengthened its commitment to the fight against climate change at the COP26 in Glasgow. The project to expand marine protected areas is on track. And the German and French governments' recent contributions to the sustainable financing of protected areas will soon bear fruit.

Finally, the Foundation's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, which aims to further consolidate sustainable funding for protected areas over the next five years, was launched. Join us in amplifying the impacts of preserving our biodiversity. The best time to commit was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

Happy 2022 New Year to all.

Alain Liva Raharijaona, Executive Director

GOVERNANCE

FAPBM team is growing

In the last quarter of 2021, FAPBM welcomed new collaborators. Readers are invited to meet them.

Vola Rajaofera, Administrative officer



Holder of a Master's degree in management control and operational audit delivered by INSCAE, one of the best business schools in Madagascar, she has developed a strategic expertise in elaboration of tools and

regulatory texts by evolving in the administrative and financial directions of development projects (GEF, UNDP

and GIZ) and public entities (National Office for the Environment (ONE), Support Service for the Management of the Environment and the project (SAGE), National Integrity Observatory of the Committee for the Safeguarding of the Integrity (CSI))

"Contributing to the conservation and restoration of Madagascar's Biodiversity is an important mission, for which I wish to invest myself and to which I invite everyone to participate. Together, let's recreate our island in order to perpetuate life", she said, supporting the Foundation's passion for biodiversity.

Anja Rakotonindrina, Executive Assistant



With a dual background in tourism and communication, she followed a multi-sectoral and polyvalent career path before a recent experience in an international organization and joining the Foundation.

"Biodiversity is essential to support current and future human well-being, and its quick decline threat both nature and people. Urgent action is needed to improve the environmental situation as to adopt approaches for the enhancement, safeguarding and expansion of protected areas," she argued.

Elysabeth (Ely) Razanamiarina, Consultant in Project Management of GEF6-AMP



Graduated from the University of Toliary in the South of Madagascar, she has long evolved in the environment and sustainable development sector. Her fields of expertise are administration and finance. She

worked at SAGE (Service d'Appui à la Gestion de l'Environnement), Tany Meva Foundation and UNDP before joining FAPBM.

"Nature is our source of water and food. It also provides the necessary oxygen for our health. I wish that Madagascar will become green again one day. For this, it is essential and a priority to better conserve the biodiversity of the Great Island, to watch over nature and to protect our ecosystems", she shared.

A contribution of 45.7 million euros for the Madagascar's Protected Areas System



Madagascar's Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and the German development bank KfW signed on December 6th, 2021 two financial aid contracts that worth 45.7 million euros for the protection of Madagascar's biodiversity. This endowment will contribute to the capital of FAPBM. The income generated by this capital will provide protected areas and local communities with necessary means to sustainably strengthen the fight against the growing pressures on the country's biodiversity and natural resources.

The priority areas of German development cooperation in Madagascar are environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources in the energy and agriculture sectors. Through KfW, the German government has committed to the sustainable financing of the Madagascar's Protected Areas System (SAPM) for more than 30 years, either through direct financing of Madagascar National Parks (MNP) or through capital endowment to FAPBM.

The German government is thus the largest donor in the environmental sector. Those fourth and fifth contribution of KfW to the capital of FAPBM reinforces a long-standing commitment and reflects the priorities of German cooperation. Positive impacts will be brought about by this valuable financial support:

- Increased capacity to protect and address threats to protected areas, so that healthy ecosystems continue to provide the essentials of human life such as water, energy and medicines, and prevent extreme events;
- Funding of sustainable natural resource management initiatives including alternative and income generating activities for the benefit of communities as a support to the sustainable development of the country;

- Securing the management of the Madagascar National Parks network as a priority and then of the new protected areas (NPA).

The signing ceremony was held in the presence of Mrs. Rindra Hasimbelo Rabarininarison, Minister of Economy and Finance, Mr. Martin Bostroem, KfW Project Manager and Mrs. Nanie Ratsifandrihamanana, President of the Board of FAPBM.

The Minister stressed that "The challenges are immense, but together we will succeed. Indeed, we have to face two important threats. The first is human actions and the second is climate change. We must act today, not tomorrow or wait until 2030".

KfW considers "the Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar (FAPBM), as well as Madagascar National Parks (MNP) as pillars of environmental and biodiversity protection in Madagascar. The neighbouring communities of protected areas have been benefited from the protection of habitats, their economic potential and the clear regulations on use as well as tourism development" explained the KfW project manager.

The President of the Board of FAPBM welcomed this gesture of solidarity from the German Government, saying: "Protected areas are the last sanctuaries of our country's unique biodiversity. They contribute significantly to the national economy and to our daily well-being. But they are under a lot of pressure, which is exacerbated by the pandemic and its impact on the tourism sector as well as the effects of climate change. We thank KfW for this timely financial support to strengthen the efforts of protected area managers and local communities. FAPBM renews its commitment to support them through our funding mechanisms."

PROTECTED AREAS

Exceptional grants for Ibity and Ambodivahibe

The Ambodivahibe and Ibity protected areas have benefited from exceptional grants from the FAPBM, respectively from the FAR-NAP and FIS tools. These two funding mechanisms are intended to strengthen the capacities of protected area managers (FAR-NAP) or to deal with exceptional unforeseen situations (FIS).

Ambodivahibe: a FAR-NAP support to better address to community needs



(C) FAPBM

Anchored in northeastern Madagascar, Ambodivahibe, managed by Conservation International, represents an example of sustainable marine resource management. In order to improve its effectiveness in

addressing community needs, Conservation International plans to gather socio-economic data (living standards, health (especially during the Covid-19 period), education, gender, culture, etc.). As this additional study was not foreseen in the Annual Work Plan, but is essential for the success of the five-year Development and Management Plan (PAG), FAPBM has granted an amount of 27 million Ariary (6 750 USD) to carry out this study.

Ibity, threatened by small mining operators



(C) FAPBM

Gold miners and other miners, at various scales, are common threats to the landscapes sheltered by protected areas. Ibity is not exempt. In late September, Missouri Botanical Garden, manager of the protected

area, reported the presence of a small-scale mica quarry 25 km from the protected area. Despite a negotiation process, the operators continued their misdeeds. Ibity therefore submitted a request for FIS to carry out awareness-raising at the small mines around the protected area, to follow up on the small mines with the authorities, and to patrol around cultivation plots the small mines in the controlled occupation zone (ZOC). Since the situation was unforeseen and involved the integrity of the protected area (cutting, fire, trampling of plants, etc.), FAPBM has released an amount of 6 million Ariary (1 500 USD)

Any interested protected area managers can contact

FAPBM to apply for the FAR-NAP or FIS. It should be noted that these grants are open to protected areas not yet funded by FAPBM, as well as to those with a temporary status.

Itremo, when the pines invade



(C) Kew

A monitoring-evaluation mission of FAPBM, led by Serge Ratsirahonana, monitoring-evaluation Officer, was carried out from October 28th, to November 3th, 2021 in the Itremo Massif (Amaron'i Mania Region). The evaluation focused on the manager's achievements in terms of conservation, community development and effective management.

Located in the central Province of Fianarantsoa, the Itremo massif calls out by its rocky substrates, its wooded savannahs, its forests of Tapia and galleries (forests along watersheds). There are 550 species of plants, 59 species of birds, 17 species of amphibians, etc. Its rivers ensure the irrigation of the rice fields around the region of Ambatofinandrahana. It has received annual grants from FAPBM since 2015. Like other protected areas, fire remains the main threats to the protected area.

The mission visited the gallery forest of Antsirakambiaty. It was noted that pines are increasingly invading the periphery and even the interior of the gallery forest and compete with native species of Itremo. This pines proliferation is also affecting degraded Tapia forests (*Uapaca bojeri* - endemic to Madagascar), as the young shoots are highly susceptible to fire (pyrogenic).

In Itremo, the fight to preserve native species from pines invasion is confronted with the risk of pines exploitation rush for construction or firewood. In order to prevent this risk, RBG Kew, the protected area manager, has opted for a progressive cutting by removing the bark at the base of the pine trunk.

Audit and monitoring-evaluation mission in Ankarana



(C) FAPBM

A joint mission of audit and monitoring-evaluation of FAPBM took place in the Special Reserve of Ankarana, managed by Madagascar National Parks (MNP) from November 27th, to December 5th, 2021. Led by Serge Ratsirahonana, monitoring and evaluation Officer and Evah Ralalarisoa, audit Officer, the objective of the mission was to directly observe the state of the protected area conservation and to evaluate its capacity to resume tourism activities after the health crisis.

Located in the northern province of Antsiranana, Ankarana calls out by its caves, canyons and its Tsingy. Rich in biodiversity (670 species of plants, 113 species of birds, 10 species of lemurs), this protected area is one of favorite touristic destinations among the MNP network. Its touristic value is further enhanced by its cultural attributes, as one of the caves houses a tomb of the Antakarana royal family. As an important touristic destination, Ankarana greatly suffered from the successive touristic restrictions in 2019 and 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. International tourists have been totally absent for 2 years, national tourists having been reluctant because of the bad conditions of the road.

FAPBM's support for the Ankarana Special Reserve began in 2012. The two FAPBM representatives went to meet with the Women's Association, whose handicraft talents deserve to be supported.

On the road to the northern protected areas

Led by Evah Ralalarisoa, audit missions of "Montagne des Français" and Oronjia protected areas were carried out from November 7th to 14th, 2021, respectively

managed by SAGE and Missouri Botanical Garden. The main objective of these missions was to ensure that the funds allocated to the managers were used in accordance with the contractual conditions set out in the signed financing agreements.

The French men's Mountain or « Montagne des Français »



(C) FAPBM

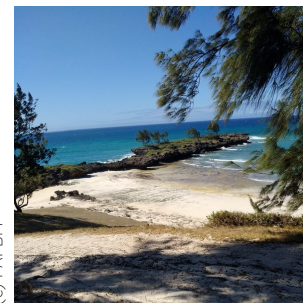
Passing through Antsiranana, well-informed tourists do not miss to pay a visit to Ambohitr'Antsingy, more commonly called "Montagne des Français". A break in time for history buffs, a spiritual pilgrimage for devotees

and the discovery of a lunar landscape for nature-lovers, the protected area has all that is needed to fulfill curious minds. A "must" tourist site in the northern DIANA region, the protected area also works as a water tank for the city of Antsiranana, thanks to abundant vegetation able to stock water.

The Foundation joined a visit of the plant nurseries in Andranomanitra and Iovovona with the orientation and support committee of the protected area, key actor in patrolling, making ecological monitoring and taking care of firewalls.

Since 2015, FAPBM has been mobilized to finance the protected area through annual funding. Moreover, "Montagne des Français" was granted a funding in 2021 to support the adoption of the Development and Management Plan (PAG) and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (PGES) at the national level.

Oronjia



(C) FAPBM

In Oronjia, the atypical beauty of dry forests rubs shoulders with the refreshing breeze of a turquoise blue sea. Immersed in the heart of this dichotomy, the flora of this protected area flourishes in all its splendor, making the happiness of lemurs, wild animals and

tropical birds that find refuge there

Since 2015, FAPBM has been mobilized to finance the protected area through annual grants. Oronjia has also benefited from a financial support for the adoption of the Development and Management Plan (PAG) and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (PGES).

Talk on COP 26 with Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy, National Landscape and Seascape Coordinator of the Ecological Restoration and Innovation Initiative (INDRI)



(c) Vatosoa R. Mainly known for her commitment to locally managed marine protected areas, Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy is also at the forefront of advancing collective intelligence for ecosystem restoration. Attending COP26 in Glasgow in dual role, her participation was financially supported by FAPBM, as was that of Rina Mandimbinaina, advisor of the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and Mr Bertrand Zazabe, Regional Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Androy region. She looks back on COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Conference (November 1st to 13th).

Q : How did you experience your first COP? Tell us about the highlights.

A : In a word, stimulating, although my participation was shortened from November 6th to 13th. Madagascar was part of at least 14 side-events and participated in several negotiations. As an observer during a negotiation about actions for rainforests, I was impressed by the belief and strength put in the argumentation of the Southern countries addressing representatives of polluting countries.

Another highlight was my quick meeting with the COP President, with whom some members of the Malagasy delegation had the honor to discuss. He shared about his wish to come to Madagascar and watch over women in the South.

Finally, I had the opportunity to advocate on the importance of community involvement during a panel with experts as the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ms. Baomiatse Vahinala Raharinirina, on the theme “Blue Carbon Panel – The vital role of mangroves for climate change mitigation and adaptation”, organized by Blue Ventures.

Q : What good news do you bring back from Glasgow for Madagascar? And for protected areas?

A : First, the Government of Madagascar signed the Glasgow Conference Resolution on Forests and Land Use, committing Madagascar to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030, while ensuring sustainable development and promoting inclusive rural transformation.

Second, the civil society coalition identified funding opportunities for biodiversity and the environment in Madagascar in terms of climate change adaptation and mitigation, including APAC (African Protected Areas Congress, Rwanda, 2022), the Great Blue Wall Initiative and the Global Environment Facility.

Finally, and most importantly, the Glasgow Compact favors nature-based solutions because it recognizes “the crucial role of protecting, conserving and restoring ecosystems for climate change adaptation and mitigation while ensuring social and environmental safeguards as these:

- Act as sinks and tanks of greenhouse gases by protecting biodiversity while ensuring social and environmental safeguards;
- Provide essential services that reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts and support sustainable livelihoods, including for indigenous peoples and local communities.”

Protected areas are at the forefront of these nature-based solutions.

Q : COP 27 will be held in Africa (Egypt) in 2022, as well as the APAC. From your point of view, how can Madagascar better benefit from the opportunities offered by these major international events?

A : By highlighting communities and their contributions to environmental issues. Our voice could be better heard while highlighting the good practices and achievements of community protected areas in this area.

Then, our advocacy from the country could be more effective with a contribution from multi-sectoral experts from all levels of involvement.

Finally, on a more personal note, I encourage delegates to participate in the collective intelligence sessions, which are full of practical solutions for the day-to-day tackling of climate change issues.