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African companies fund Madagascar's protected areas

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A call to strengthen the protected areas network by the 7th World Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN (Marseille, France)

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A financial support from the Fund for the Strengthening of New Protected Areas (FAR-NAP) has been granted to the Oronjia New Protected Area (NPA) in order to update their Environmental and Social Safeguard Management Plan (PGESS) and the Development and Management Plan (PAG), two key documents for enhancing the effectiveness of the management of protected areas, for reducing pressures on the protected area and for improving the well-being of conservation targets. This funding amounts to MGA 15 922 800.

FAPBM support comes as a result of an application submitted by Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG), the protected area manager. As these management documents expired in 2019, the manager and all stakeholders of the protected area started the updating process in 2020. After many steps, the Steering and Monitoring Committee (COS) has developed a final draft of the PAG&PGESS. MBG wanted to hold a national workshop to endorse the final versions of these documents. Since this activity was necessary, but not urgent, still unforeseen in the 2020 Annual Work Plan (AWP), it was considered eligible for a financial from the FAR-NAP.

In addition to its status as an important area for bird and reptile conservation, Oronjia is also home to 201 endemic plants of Madagascar, including the *Dioscorea orangeana*, which is a food resource exploited by locals during difficult times. Oronjia protected area is home to the water springs that provide fresh water to the neighboring villages (for domestic needs).

As part of the Orangea Complex, the Oronjia landscape has a very strong potential for ecotourism, even beach tourism. In recent years, the Sakalava Bay which is located at the limit of Oronjia has been hosting one of the tournaments counting for the Kite Surfing world championship.

The Support Fund for the Strengthening of New Protected Areas (FAR-NAP)

FAPBM, through FAR-NAP, wishes to support the legally created NPAs for the acquisition of additional and/or complementary knowledge, which are necessary following evolutions and/or changes of contexts, in order to better focus their intervention strategies.

The following activities are eligible:

- Researches on conservation or non-conservation target species, which of interest for NPA, and which require further investigations as to their state (viability, local specific variability, distribution, etc.);
- Feasibility studies, data updating, organization of workshops or meetings to ensure the management of an unforeseen crisis;
- Acquisition of new knowledge or new technologies (SMART, remote sensing and GIS, aerial tracking, ...).

For more information, contact us at mail@fapbm.org

PROTECTED AREAS

To the Rescue of Ankarafantsika



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The latest photos of the Ankarafantsika National Park (Boeny region, Mahajanga province, West of Madagascar) broadcasted on the media have shaken up the Malagasy people. Many expressed their indignation against the fires, which have devastated this common natural heritage. Dedication of the teams from the Boeny/Betsiboka Interregional Direction of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (DIREDD), the park staff, the local communities, hundreds of volunteers and all those who have helped to control the fires and preserve much of this National Park wealth. But they saved much more than trees...

... They have preserved hundreds of jobs and the income of several families, because the wealth that the Park contains attracts more than 4000 local and international tourists every year (before the pandemic). Through entrance fees, tour guide fees, costs of stay and restoration, tourism in Ankarafantsika ensures incomes to thousands of households and participates in the economy of the Boeny region.

... They have saved a unique biodiversity in the world. Birds, lemurs and plants, found only in Madagascar, find refuge in this park of 136,513 ha. Labeled as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and RAMSAR (wetlands label), international funding supports the conservation of this unique biodiversity including conservation and community development activities. During the Covid-19 pandemic, for example, in the absence of revenue from



(C) Neil Bowman - Getty Images

tourism, this funding was critical to keeping this global treasure intact. If this biodiversity is lost tomorrow, this funding will be significantly reduced.

... They have especially preserved the rice farmers of Marovoay, Soalala up to Besalampy (East of Madagascar), rice granaries of the Boeny region. The abundant vegetation (dry deciduous forests) within the park, the 33,200 hectares of wetlands (lakes and swamp forests) supply the irrigation of the rice fields of Marovoay, on which thousands of farmers depend. Among these lakes, the best known and the largest is Ravelobe one, on which was set the irrigation valve of these rice fields and which has a cultural value for the Sakalava ethnic group.

...Thanks to these courageous citizens whose actions have been valuable to the present population and to future generations. The Ankarafantsika Park benefited from the first financing of the FAPBM in 2006 through a KfW sinking fund. If you wish to contribute to restoration activities or support the park in any way, contact us at mail@fapbm.org.

Ankivonjy, an example of effective involvement of communities in the management of a protected area



(C) WCS

Located in the extreme northwest of the Ampasindava Peninsula, the Ankivonjy Harmonious Protected Landscape, a category V (protected area managed primarily for landscape or seascape conservation and recreational purposes) marine protected area according to the IUCN classification, is spread over 7 localities of the Bemanevika Ouest municipality, Ambanja District, DIANA Region. It covers a surface of 139,409 Ha and includes 5 islands and islets: Nosy Ankazoberavina, Nosy Ankivonjy, Nosimborona, Nosy Ankisomany as well as the famous Nosy Iranja, nationally and internationally recognized as a tourist hub thanks to its breathtaking landscape. Ankivonjy is managed according to the co-management system between WCS and the local communities gathered in the Ankivonjy association. Aware of the importance of the preservation of biodiversity on their daily life: tourism and fishing for

food and income, local communities are actively committed in the management activities of Ankivonjy protected area. The 52 members of the Association's General Assembly work actively in informing and raising the communities awareness of the management measures concerning the protected area and the importance of the conservation targets and their preservation.

In addition, 24 Community Control and Surveillance (CCS) agents ensure the periodic surveillance. Equipped with motorized dugout canoes, uniforms and working tools (GPS, SMART, fuel), they conduct patrols on a



(c) WCS

voluntary basis. Their interventions, supported by 8 members of the Local rules compliance Committee (Komity Mampiatra ny Dina-KMD), has allowed the arrest of delinquents and the application of the penalties (vonodina) as stipulated in the local rules (Dina). Thus, for 2020, collected fines generated by mangrove charcoal production and turtle hunting amounted to MGA 560 000.

In addition to these activities, representatives of the communities conduct the Participatory Ecological Monitoring: monitoring of capture, monitoring of marine turtles (nesting site), monitoring of grass beds. These different volunteer structures benefit from the technical supervision of the WCS team, who provided with equipment and working tools. It is important to note that the periodic reporting of the results of the monitoring conducted by the community agents is a source of motivation for them, as they see the value of their activities and participate in the review of the management measures coming from these analysis. In order to support this active engagement of the communities, support for income-generating activities and the effective application of regulations outside of the "dina" are required.

Ravaka Ranaivoson, Marine Conservation Director, WCS

IMPACT INVESTING

African companies fund Madagascar's protected areas

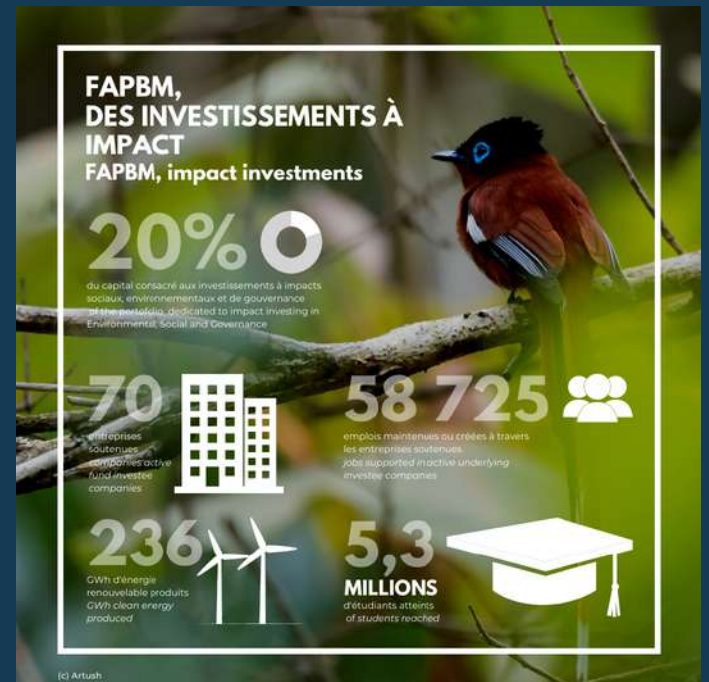
Through the revenues of its capital, FAPBM can provide annual grants to protected areas. In fact, FAPBM gathers donor contributions into an endowment fund. This capital is then invested in the international financial markets and generates annual revenues. Only this annual revenues is used to fund protected areas, and this way ensures the sustainability of funding.

Regarding the investment of its capital, FAPBM is committed to responsible, ethical and sustainable criteria to enhance its impact. For example, its investments exclude tobacco companies and weapons industry, among others. But FAPBM goes further, as at least 20% of its capital is invested in projects with a direct social or environmental impact, known as impact investing.

This is a way to provide financing for social or environmental activities while ensuring the profitability of the activities financed. This impact investing primarily targeted African countries, and also concern some other countries in Asia and Latin America. In Africa, these investments support the expansion of local businesses and job creation. In Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, the Foundation invests primarily in the development of renewable energy and access to education. Finally, in Latin

America, the improvement of environmental, social and governance aspects, as well as the financing of SMEs are part of the expected impacts.

The 2021 impact investing report details the results of these investments, which can be consulted [here](#).



INTERNATIONAL

A call to strengthen the protected areas network by the 7th World Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN (September, 3rd-11th, 2021, Marseille, France)

"30% of the planet should be protected" is the call IUCN is making to States. In a post-pandemic context, IUCN calls on governments to strengthen the conservation network to halt the loss of biodiversity on which our lives and livelihoods depend. Protected areas should therefore extend to areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem services (water, food, energy, ...). They must take into account the custodial roles and responsibilities assumed by local communities, and recognize that their different uses of biodiversity can be compatible with effective conservation.

"Intact land and seascapes need to be fully protected from industrial-scale activities, including deep seabed mining. In this respect, ambitious quantitative targets

are insufficient unless there is commitment to effective implementation and meaningful funding for conservation," states the Marseille manifesto.

With nearly 7 million hectares of marine and terrestrial protected areas for 126 protected areas, and despite the marine protected areas extension project underway, Madagascar is far from these objectives. The participation of the Malagasy delegation, led by Mrs. Baomiatotse Vahinala Raharinirina, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development at this Congress, marks in any case the willingness of the country to contribute to these objectives.

Read the manifesto in full [here](#).



Speech of Madame Baomiatotse Vahinala Raharinirina, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development at the Conservation Finance Alliance pavilion



Bilateral meeting with the African Wildlife Foundation



Some members of the Malagasy delegation



Success story of Nosivolo Protected Area (East of Madagascar), related by Ms. Luciane ANDRIAMARO, Director of Science and Knowledge, Conservation International



Meeting with members of the African Consortium of Environmental Funds - CAFE



Session on "Innovative mechanisms to finance biodiversity"