

Investing in the Dry Forest Protected Areas of Madagascar - creating a model for 'One-Health'

THE 'ONE-HEALTH' MODEL ACCELERATOR FUND

Call to action

Invest in Malagasy expert organisations who protect and manage dry forests and their critical ecosystem services, so that these special places provide a model for integrating conservation with sustainable development of Madagascar.

Objective

Together with partners, **Madagascar Protected Areas and Biodiversity Fund (FAPBM)** and **Madagascar National Parks (MNP)** will accelerate readiness of **12 Dry Forest Protected Areas** to receive sustainable finance and serve as models for 'One-Health' in rural communities of Madagascar. **Six of these protected areas are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.**

Through this accelerator fund, co-management between local communities and government will be strengthened for these places and benefits of applying the 'One-Health' concept in Madagascar will be evidenced.

This way, the 'One-Health' approach will become a model for reversing degradation trends in agro-pastoral landscapes to serve needs of people and economies throughout the Middle and Southwest of Madagascar.

Investment strategy

FAPBM has created a special fund to intensify efforts already underway by Malagasy experts of the Madagascar coalition for **Protected Areas in 12 Dry Forest areas**. Investments will accelerate the ability of local communities and their governments to receive sustainable finance from FAPBM and manage their landscape into perpetuity.



Tsinembo © TPF

This is Madagascar's response to the post-pandemic emergence of a 'One-Health' approach that links investments in ecosystem health with population well-being. It combines Madagascar's commitment through its National Action Plan to combat desertification and land degradation by ensuring restoration of forests by 2030 and the **10-year strategic vision** of the **Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)** to preserve and sustainably manage natural resources, conduct useful ecosystem restoration, and contribute to local socio-economic well-being.

To fulfil these commitments, Madagascar must urgently improve the management of its Dry Forest areas. This is a task that will have significant impacts on rural communities who already face various challenges by the mere fact that they live in and near these areas in the central and southwestern parts of Madagascar.

Rural communities in these areas face the following challenges:

- Impacts from illegal logging, forest fires and related land degradation;
- Impacts from prolonged drought and related loss of ecosystem services;
- Impacts on their livelihoods due to unsustainable agro-pastoral practices as productive agricultural land is stressed by unsustainable harvest practices; and
- Impacts from a collapsing tourism sector related to COVID related travel restrictions and changing the profile of Madagascar as a positive destination.

Performance

MNP and their local partners implement efforts to ensure performance at these **12 Dry Forest Protected areas** and in the surrounding landscape. The approach focuses on healthy landscapes for healthy communities, notably outside of protected areas. MNP is a private association mandated by Government decree to manage 43 national parks and nature reserves.

Mikea National Park

Wildfires and degraded landscape are one cause of transmission of diseases from animals to humans. Around Mikea National Park, park managers working with traditional local healers, significantly reduced wildfires by explaining links between the health of the land with the health of people and communities.

Menabe Antimena

In the dry forest of Menabe Antimena, in the south of the country, FAPBM secures the employment of rangers and this way significantly increases the patrols frequency. This support added with the development activities and governance strengthening implemented by the other members of the coalition has contributed to a significant drop of fire points since 2022.

FAPBM plays an important role for many of Madagascar's protected areas, providing a stable and sustainable source of finance. FAPBM provides a trusted legal mechanism for the sustainable financing of operating costs of protected areas in the country.

Distribution of the investment

To accelerate readiness of these Dry Forest areas as a model for 'One-Health' and to achieve Madagascar's global and national commitments, approaches to effective co-management regimes must include strategies relevant to 'One-Health'.

Funds will be used to ¹ complement efforts underway at Dry Forest Protected Areas, so that local collaborative management regimes will be durable and adequate to achieve community self-reliance and reduce health risks, as well as to ² establish critical enabling conditions required for effective application of a durable co-management model for these Protected Areas.

Specifically, this includes:

1 Support managers of Dry Forest PAs to:

- Render communities bankable, specifically for agricultural related livelihoods – building capacities of communities in money management/investment/financing literacy;
- Implement locally relevant monitoring and control systems;
- Develop social enterprises targeted at providing community primary needs such as electricity, and sanitation; and
- Mobilise adequate partnerships with the health sector to ensure effective sharing of information and skills required to control risks.

2 Support policy makers to:

- Develop legal frameworks required to strengthen legal basis for collaborative management, health infrastructure, investment in carbon, facilitate conditions for social enterprises and sustainable rural development; and
- Prioritise economic development strategies near Dry Forest Protected Areas to motivate transition to a green economy with healthy local communities and local governments.

Implementing team/organization

MNP will lead work with Malagasy experts (members of the coalition) and local communities to deliver on the 'One-Health' concept in these critical places.

FAPBM will manage and invest the funds as a trusted Malagasy national sustainable finance institution and measure performance and impacts for communication to investors.



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