



# PROTECTED HARMONIOUS LANDSCAPE OF AMORON'İ ONILAHY

**Category:** Protected Harmonious  
Landscape, Category V

**Manager:** WWF

**Area:** 100,482 hectares

**Geolocation:** Toliara Province; Atsimo Andrefana Region;  
Toliara II and Betioky Atsimo Districts

**International Labels:** Key Biodiversity Area (KBA); RAMSAR  
Site; Biosphere Reserve with Tsimanampetsotse; Important  
Plant Area (IPA)

**Start of FAPBM funding:** 2024

## NAMING

The protected area takes its name from the Onilahy River, along which it is structured.

## FLAGSHIP SPECIES

Amoron'İ Onilahy is dominated by **dry thorny thickets** from Andranomay to Saint-Augustin, and features various wetland systems (lakes, marshes, etc.). Its flora includes elements typical of the dry thorny thicket of the south-west, riparian species along the banks of the Onilahy river as well as species endemic to the region (Amoron'İ Onilahy and Tsinjoriake) such as *Crotalaria poissonii*, which is on IUCN red list of endangered species. Two plant families endemic to Madagascar are found in the NPA, namely *Physenaceae* and *Sphaerosepalaceae*. In terms of fauna, the site is home to a wide variety of bats and several reptile species.



**6**  
**SPECIES OF  
AMPHIBIANS**



**8**  
**SPECIES  
OF LEMURS**  
including **2** critically  
endangered  
species (e.g.  
Verreaux's Sifaka), **3**  
endangered species  
(e.g. Maki) and **1**  
vulnerable species



**15**  
**SPECIES  
OF BATS**  
including **2**  
vulnerable (e.g.  
Madagascar flying  
fox)



**89**  
**SPECIES  
OF BIRDS**  
including **4**  
endangered species  
(e.g. Malagasy  
grebe) and **1** local  
endemic classified  
as a vulnerable  
species



**54**  
**SPECIES  
OF REPTILES**  
including **1** critically  
endangered species  
(Radiated Tortoise)  
and **4** vulnerable  
species



**107**  
**SPECIES  
OF PLANTS**  
including: **88**  
species endemic  
to Madagascar,  
with at least **3**  
endangered species  
and **1** vulnerable  
species / **3** locally  
endemic species,  
including **1** critically  
endangered species  
and **1** vulnerable  
species



**2**  
**SPECIES OF  
CARNIVORES**  
including **1**  
vulnerable  
species (Fosa)



**10**  
**SPECIES  
OF OTHER  
MAMMALS**





## PROTECTED AREA SPECIFICITIES

### LANDSCAPES AND HABITATS



Dense dry forest; dry thorny thicket; marsh; meadow and secondary pasture; wetlands

### PRESSURES AND THREATS



Mining; land clearing; selective logging; hunting; miscellaneous harvesting; charcoal-making; uncontrolled fires; overfishing



### ECONOMIC VALUE

Agriculture is the mainstay of rural economy in the Amoron'i Onilahy area. The Onilahy river plays a central part in this practice, as the baibohe bordering the river is one of the main areas of agricultural production. The NPA has an important role in the management of the watershed of the river and its tributaries by stabilising the riverbed and limiting silting of the alluvial soil.

The NPA also possesses a wealth of ecotourism potential thanks to its biodiversity and its multiple aesthetic natural sites. Some of the assets that can be exploited for ecotourism include the Onilahy river ride, caves, natural pools, hot springs and many other wetland attractions.



### LOCAL COMMUNITIES' INITIATIVES

WWF works together with the local community to achieve participatory management of the PA. The management structure includes 4 entities, namely: WWF / The Technical Units of OPCI OHEMIHA (public organism for intercommunal cooperation Onilahy HEnane MItambatse Handroso) / The Dina monitoring and implementation unit (*Cellule de suivi et d'application du Dina*, CSAD) / The Local Management Unit (*Unité locale de gestion*, ULG), through which local communities are involved.

Local communities are responsible for implementing the development and management plan (PAG), coordinating activities, ensuring application of the Dina, and controlling and monitoring the PA's areas and transferred sites

In addition, traditional leaders known as *Nahoda be* (considered as the patriarchs of the community) work together with local authorities in maintaining law and order and in protecting and developing the area.



### FAPBM'S EFFORTS AND RESULTS

FAPBM's financial support to the New Protected Area (NPA) of Amoron'i Onilahy began in 2024. The grant is intended for the implementation of conservation activities (patrols and surveillance, ecological monitoring, ecological restoration, awareness-raising) and support for communities. It also partially covers the salaries and operating costs of the management unit.



fapbm



www.fapbm.org

Created in 2005, the **Foundation for the Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar (FAPBM)** is a Malagasy trust fund dedicated to the conservation of Madagascar's biodiversity. It is an innovative and sustainable financing mechanism for Madagascar's Protected Areas System (SAPM).