

# NEWSLETTER

August - September 2020

## Adoption of the revised Investment Policy

The Board of Trustees approved on Monday 27 July 2020 the update of the Foundation's Investment Policy. Adjustments are being made to this policy so that it continues to comply with the highest possible standards of financial portfolio management and so that the Foundation can remain focused on the roles assigned to it by its founders and donors, namely the sustainable financing of protected areas.

Performance targets, the level of tolerance for portfolio depreciation risk and the method of determining the spending rule have thus been harmonized so that the purpose and services provided by the portfolio are aligned.

The update of the investment policy incorporates, among other points, the following changes:

- In the calculation of the spending rule, to ensure that the increase in FAPBM's capital can be reflected more swiftly in the fundings granted to beneficiaries, the determination of the rate of the spending rule will from now be based on an average of the portfolio values over 3 years instead of 5 years (then exactly 4 and a half years);
- In terms of the responsible approach adopted by the Foundation, the portfolio management method now takes into account the harmonization with the practices of its donors and its role in protecting the environment.

## Discovery of the 113th species of lemurs in the Mananara-North Protected Area



A 113th species of lemurs was found in the protected area of Mananara-Nord, funded by the Foundation and managed by Madagascar National Parks.

"*Microcebus jonah*" is the name that was given to it in tribute to Professor Jonah Ratsimbazafy, president of the Groupe d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Primates - a protected area manager supported by the FAPBM - and one of the founders of Madagascar Lemurs Portal.



As a reminder, Lemurs Portal is a knowledge portal on lemurs created by the consortium formed by WCS, GERP and FAPBM and whose vision is to strengthen the conservation of these emblematic species of Madagascar through better information sharing.

## Madagascar lemurs classified in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Nearly a third (31%) of all lemur species in Madagascar are now Critically Endangered, i.e. only one step away from extinction, and 98% of them are threatened, according to the latest update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The substantial decline of these endemic species in the country is due to various factors such as deforestation, slash-and-burn agriculture, exploitation of forest resources for charcoal production and hunting.



*The Propithecus verreauxi*

13 species of lemurs have been placed in higher threat categories due to increased human pressures. Among those newly classified as Critically Endangered are the Verreaux's Sifaka (*Propithecus verreauxi*) and the Mignon Microcebus (*Microcebus berthae*), the world's smallest primate, both previously considered Endangered.

Within the 36 sites funded by the Foundation are protected lemurs among which 16 are Critically Endangered, 32 are Endangered and 19 are Vulnerable.

## Tribute to Sylvain Rabotoarison, one of the founders of FAPBM



Charles Sylvain Rabotoarison passed away on July 2, 2020 at the age of 76.

For Madagascar, his death represents the loss of a great figure who served in high-ranking positions within the Administration, including Minister of the Interior and Minister of the Environment, Water and Forests.

For the Foundation, it is the loss of one of its pillars. With the late Léon Rajaobelina (representing Conservation International) and Jean Paul Paddock (representing WWF), Charles Sylvain Rabotoarison (representing the Malagasy Government) was one of the driving forces behind the creation of FAPBM.

The Foundation offers its deepest and most sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of Mr. Rabotoarison.

## Adoption of the Operations manual of the Strengthening Support Fund for the New Protected Areas (NPAs)

The Strengthening Support Fund for NPAs was set up by the Foundation to support New Protected Areas in acquiring additional knowledge on the situation, wealth, evolution and/or change in management contexts in order to better guide their intervention strategies. The procedures for the operationalization of this fund were approved by the Board of Trustees during its meeting of July 27, 2020.

The categories of activities eligible to apply for this fund are as follows:

- Research on conservation target species described in the NPA's technical guidelines or not, and which require further investigation as to their status and/or viability, their specific local variability, their spread in the NPA;
- Feasibility studies for other activities, updating data after an unexpected change in context, organization of workshops/meetings to ensure the management of an unforeseen crisis;
- Activities aimed at acquiring new knowledge on the management of the protected area, new technologies for the management of the protected area (SMART, remote detection) and GIS, aerial monitoring, GLAD...). These will make it possible to improve or ensure the viability of the protected area through the contribution of knowledge related to a given theme, species, change of context, etc.

In order to benefit from this Fund, the NPA must meet the following criteria:

- To be a legally created protected area, i.e. with a protection order, whether or not it is temporary;
- Preferably having at its disposal management tools (PAG and PGESS);
- Submitting an annual budgeted work plan;
- Justifying the relevance of the activity for which funding is requested from the Foundation;
- Determining the added value provided by the implementation of the requested activities;
- Showing the positive impact of carrying out the activity in order to strengthen the management of the protected area.

## Focus on the current critical situation of Madagascar National Parks

The conservation of the 43 protected areas managed by Madagascar National Parks (MNP) is currently jeopardized due to the financial difficulties encountered by this manager. Part of the funds used by MNP to finance the preservation of the protected areas comes, actually, from park entrance fees. The absence of tourists resulting from the situation caused by the pandemic of COVID-19 thus creates a latent financial hiatus for Madagascar National Parks. The latter is increasingly at risk of no longer being able to cover the financial needs inherent to the conservation of protected areas.



*Ankarafantsika Protected Area was among the most visited before the pandemic of COVID-19*

At the same time, however, protected areas are facing increasing pressures: in times of crisis, activities that endanger biodiversity are increasing as the population turns to the resources of protected areas. An example of this emergency situation in PAs is illustrated by the Tsaratanàna Integral Nature Reserve, to which the Foundation has granted a Special Intervention Fund for its security: traffickers are planting cannabis and endangering the biodiversity of the protected area.

Slightly less than 300,000 tourists visited the protected areas managed by MNP in 2019. A figure that highlights even more the absence of tourists that creates a critical financial situation for Madagascar National Parks. The current difficulties encountered by MNP raise the red flag for Madagascar's biodiversity: a large part of the country's natural capital is at risk of disappearing if conservation activities in the 43 protected areas managed by MNP cannot be maintained.

### Tribute to Richard Andréas and Clovis Raveloson



*Late Richard Andréas*

The Foundation mourns the loss of two of its former trustees: Richard Andréas and Clovis Raveloson.

As members of the Steering Committee for the creation of the "Fonds Fiduciaire pour la conservation de la biodiversité et des aires protégées", which later became FAPBM, they have supported the Foundation since its first steps.



*Late Clovis Raveloson*

From 2005 to 2011, they subsequently put their experience and expertise at the service of sustainable financing of protected areas as administrators of the Foundation.

FAPBM offers its heartfelt sympathy to the families and loved ones of the deceased.

### Participation of the Foundation in a CFA webinar on the blue economy and exchanges with CAFE

The Foundation keeps on training and informing itself in order to better ensure its mission of sustaining funding for Madagascar's protected areas and biodiversity.

The Foundation thus attended the webinar organized by the Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA) on new financing solutions integrating the blue capital. The training provided a better understanding of the financial mechanisms that make it possible to combine investments in infrastructure and the conservation of the sea and marine resources.

FAPBM also took part in the virtual exchanges organized by the African Consortium of Funds for the Environment (CAFE). Discussions focused on the impacts of the pandemic of COVID-19 on the situation of African environmental funds. These exchanges were an opportunity for FAPBM to learn about the good practices initiated by other environmental funds and to share its own.

More information on :

