

NEWSLETTER

June 2020

FAPBM assistance to local communities bordering protected areas

FAPBM will make a donation of food and sanitary equipment for protection against COVID-19 to support the local populations bordering the protected areas benefiting from its funding.

These donations, valued at MGA 114 million (30 000 USD), are in addition to the funding already provided by the Foundation to protected area managers and are in response to the impacts of the pandemic on the local communities surrounding protected areas.

These communities are, indeed, badly affected by the health crisis: the income-generating activities set up by FAPBM in support of these communities are jeopardized because of the crisis. Agricultural yields for the year 2020 will certainly be lower than in previous years due to the lack of technical supervision and the allocation of improved seeds.



Agriculture, an activity whose sustainability is threatened by the pandemic

For fishing, fish farming and beekeeping activities, the resulting income will be lower because the products are now sold locally, whose absorption capacity is very limited, even in normal times. The movement of products to the capital and other major cities is currently very restricted during the health crisis. The sustainability of these development activities is threatened because of the health crisis.



Fish farming enables local communities to increase their income significantly

FAPBM works with the managers of the protected areas it funds to deliver the donations. These managers purchase food and sanitary equipment in the towns closest to their respective sites, thereby supporting the local economy in the process.

FAPBM guidelines for protected area managers in the context of COVID-19

In the current context of crisis, FAPBM considers its responsibility to stand by the protected areas it finances. In order to make decisions that respond to the situation, the Foundation sent a questionnaire to all managers last April. The analysis of the responses highlighted :

- **The increased risk of an outbreak of illegal acts in protected areas in or near the areas** concerned by the health measures, due in particular to travel restrictions paralyzing the local economy;
- **Negative impacts on local communities:** income-generating activities set up for the benefit of local communities are affected by the emergency health situation. Collaboration between associations and NAP managers is also weakened, making co-management more difficult to put in place.

Threats of irrational exploitation of natural resources in protected areas must also be considered as the lack of alternative economic solutions to the pressures will surely lead to an increase in pressure on the natural resources of the protected areas.



Gold panning is among the pressures facing protected areas in times of crisis

The Foundation provides 3 responses to this situation:

- **Donations to local communities**, developed in the previous article.
- **Health recommendations**

FAPBM has issued health recommendations for managers of the protected areas. The Executive Management team closely follows up on these recommendations to ensure that health risks for humans and animals are controlled.

The Foundation has also made recommendations relating to the control of the impacts of COVID-19 on the management of protected areas.

- **The revision of the 2020 financing agreements**

Depending on the situation of each protected area, a consultation may be organised at the beginning of the 2nd half of 2020. A review of the initial planning of activities may indeed be necessary and/or the identification of possible financial and/or technical support for the resumption of activities.

Celebration of the International Day for Biodiversity

The International Day for Biodiversity was celebrated on May 22nd under the theme "our solutions are in nature", marking humanity's dependence on the services provided by biodiversity.

FAPBM joined in this celebration and fully adheres to the theme: the Foundation finances 36 protected areas around which live 3,200,000 people who depend on these services for their water, food and livelihoods. These few examples from the sites funded by FAPBM demonstrate that protected area conservation goes beyond purely ecological issues:

- The Montagne d'Ambre protected area, managed by Madagascar National Parks, is a site without which the entire town of Diego-Suarez would be deprived of water;
- In Mandrozo, New Protected Area managed by The Peregrine Fund, actions to preserve the site have doubled fish production from 137,079 kg of fresh fish in 2018 to 308,175 kg in 2019, allowing local communities to have additional food and fishermen to increase their incomes;
- In Antrema, a New Protected Area managed by the National Museum of Natural History, salt production increased from 5 tons in 2018 to 10 tons in 2019. Thanks to the good conservation of the site, local communities have benefited from additional income.



Fisherman of the Mandrozo Lake



Mahasrika lake of the Montagne d'Ambre protected area



A beneficiary of the salt production in Antrema

Numerous solutions can thus be found in the 36 protected areas spread over 3,5 million ha financed by the Foundation. They allow not only Madagascar's unique biodiversity to be preserved, but also the ecosystem services essential to life to be perpetuated.

COVID-19 causes major threats to protected areas in southern Madagascar*

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the protected areas in Madagascar and the human pressures have increased. It is clear that the protected areas in the Western dry forests of Madagascar are the most affected so far. Fires are commonplace in Madagascar even during normal times.(...) The fires usually appear in July, but this year they have started to increase early. Of the nine hardest hit protected areas, especially Tsingy de Bemaraha has been popular among visitors.

*Read the full article on <https://blogs.helsinki.fi/digital-geography/2020/06/01/covid-madagascar-protectedareas/>

Better performance of protected areas managers funded by FAPBM

In order to achieve a better impact of the funding it grants, the Foundation supports protected area managers through training and coaching for effective fund management. Following the external audit conducted on the managers last May, the evaluation of the managers indicated a clear overall improvement in their performance: in 2019, the average obtained by the protected areas managed by MNP is 78.15% (compared to 67.25% in 2018) and for the NPAs, this average is 76.26% (compared to 61.85% in 2018).



The key performance indicators take into account :

- The technical component (status of conservation targets, implementation rate, results achieved on site)
- The financial component (financial implementation rate)
- Administration (quality of reports, respect of submission dates, ...)
- The results of the external audit (CAC)
- Results of FAPBM's internal audit
- The number of redundant non-compliances (technical and financial)
- Scores obtained on the management level (IEG or METT)

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of FAPBM

At its meeting on 12 June, the Foundation's Board of Trustees approved the accounts audited by Delta Audit.

The impacts of the health crisis on FAPBM and the funded protected areas were also among the topics discussed during this meeting. Decisions were thus adopted by the Board of Trustees to enable the Foundation to carry out its mission despite the difficult context.

The Board of Directors also considered the revision of FAPBM's investment policy and approved the 2019 Annual Report.

Participation of the Foundation in the IUCN webinar on nature-based solutions

To celebrate World Biodiversity Day, IUCN organized a webinar on nature-based solutions in which the Foundation took part.

The knowledge gained from this webinar will enable FAPBM in the future to work to ensure that the funding it allocates combines the conservation of protected areas with biodiversity and human development.

More information on :

