



# IMPACT Madagascar

IMPlimenting ACTions for sustainable environmental change in  
Madagascar through local community-led conservation initiatives

## Annual Report 2022





# Introduction

Madagascar has a unique and exceptional biodiversity; 80% of the fauna and flora are endemic to the island. Since their arrival, humans have depended on Madagascar's natural resources for food, shelter, and well-being. As Madagascar's population grows, and climate change accelerates environmental degradation, conservation efforts in the country are increasingly vital to human and animal survival.

Since its creation in 2014, IMPACT Madagascar has been working in five regions of the country to preserve and restore biodiversity while taking into account the people who depend on it. IMPACT works with local people to provide solutions to the problems of deforestation, pollution and poverty through various projects including:

## **Natural resource conservation with communities**

Biodiversity & habitat monitoring, patrols,  
reforestation and ecological restoration

**Community development**

**Environmental education**

**Community health**

**Scientific research**

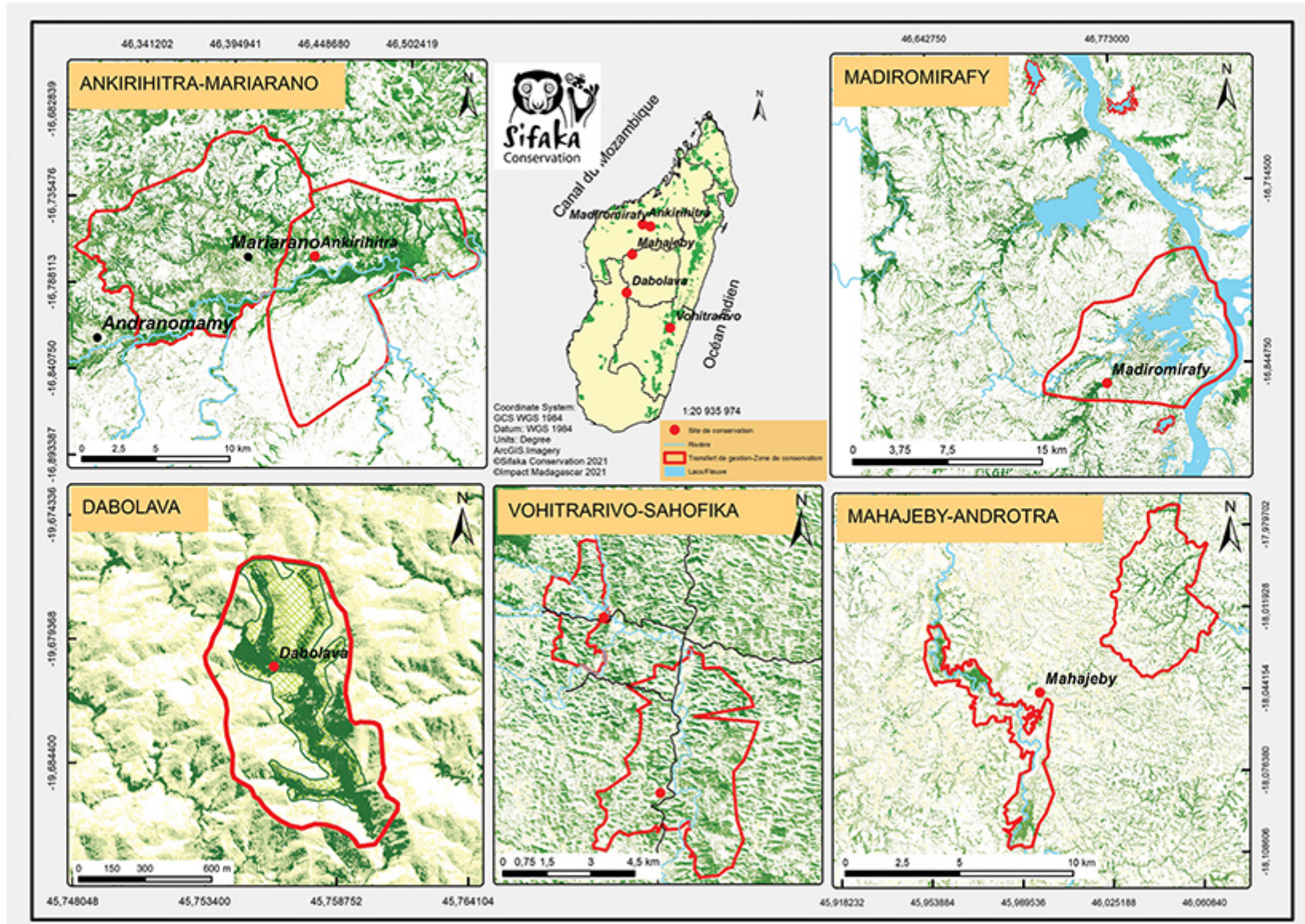
Our team works with communities to empower them and support them in the sustainable management of their local natural resources.

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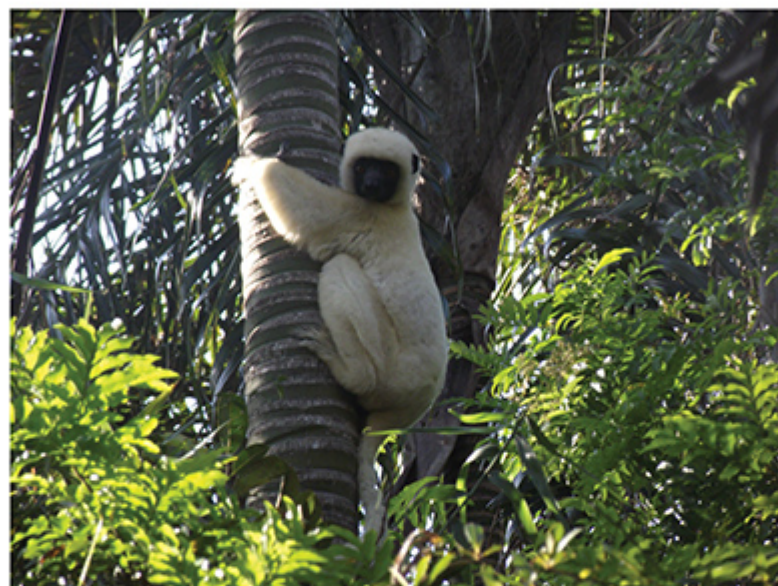
# Our Intervention Sites



# Western Sifaka in Madagascar



Coquerel's sifaka



Decken's sifaka



Crowned sifaka

# ANKIRIHITRA SITE

The site of Ankirihitra constitutes one of the last vestiges of forest resources in the Boeny region, Ambatoboeny district. It is home to countless endemic fauna of Madagascar including lemurs and other fauna such as birds, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish. These fauna take refuge in the gallery forests along the labohazo River, the dry deciduous forests, as well as the streams and rivers surrounding the gallery forests.

Two community conservation associations (VOIs) work hard to manage these resources to conserve the critically endangered and endangered species on the IUCN Red List of Species found there.

**This site is also part of the new Protected Area we are establishing.**

- Our nursery produced 65,000 seedlings (from 27 plant species) for the 2022/23 tree-planting season
- 24,000 seedlings were planted overall, restoring an area of 10.50 ha.
- 150 students participated in our environmental education program, and 86 students visited the forests.



**7300 patrol-efforts were carried out in a total area of 6,564 ha of forests.**

Like many special reserves in Madagascar, our resources were not spared from fire this year, but thanks to patrols and new approaches adopted, the fires were controlled in time and the conservation areas were not affected.

**In view of this, we've reinforced awareness of brushfire hazards. 12 awareness-raising sessions were conducted and reached more than 1570 villagers.**

- **268 lemurs from 4 species were inventoried at the site, including 145 Crowned Sifaka (*Propithecus coronatus*)**

This year, a survey was conducted to identify potential sites for the wetland wildlife conservation program. **Critically endangered endemic species are present**, namely the Madagascar big headed turtle (*Erymnochelys madagascariensis*), Madagascar Fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*) and cichlid fish (*Paretroplus spp.*)

For the first time, physico-chemical parameter surveys were carried out in 7 wetlands, showing good water quality overall.



# ANKIRIHITRA SITE

248 smallholders beneficiaries participated in development activities this year, including **irrigated rice cultivation, market gardening, beekeeping and poultry breeding**. Seeds, agricultural equipment and beekeeping equipment were distributed.



## Our smallholder beneficiaries produced:

- 7919.5 kg of leafy vegetables
- 577 kg of cucumber
- 448 kg of zucchini
- 80 kg of cabbage
- 83.5 kg of onions
- 649kg of tomatoes
- 584 poultry
- 59 tons of paddy (2.61 tons per Ha)

The products were sold for income, and also consumed by the beneficiaries and their families.

Beekeeping is still in progress. We should see our first honey production in 2023.

An irrigation system at the Ankirihitra site has been constructed to provide water for over 10 Ha of agricultural area.



# MADIROMIRAFY SITE

The Madiromirafy site, located in the Betsiboka region, Maevatanana district, is home to a dry gallery forest and a complex aquatic ecosystem hosting a multitude of unique flora and fauna species.

One of the particularities of this site is the presence of endemic and threatened species, classified as **critically endangered** by the IUCN red list, namely Crowned sifaka, Madagascar fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*), Madagascar big-headed turtle (*Erymnochelys madagascariensis*), and the Spotted Damba Cichlid fish (*Paretroplus maculatus*). IMPACT Madagascar works hard to protect this exceptional biodiversity.

**This site is currently part of the New Protected Area that we are creating.**

**612 patrols were carried out, covering an area of over 400 Ha.**

Illegal cutting, charcoal burning, overexploitation of fisheries resources and the use of illegal fishing gear are the greatest threats to terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity at this site. Patrols of this forest area resulted in the arrest and subsequent prosecution of two illegal charcoal makers.



- A total of 162 Crowned sifaka from 32 groups, and 9 red-fronted brown lemurs from one group, were inventoried in the Mandrava forest.
- The inventory of lake ecosystems showed more than 9 species of fish, more than 760 birds, 2 pairs of fish eagles and 1 fish eagle chick that also depend on these resources.



- 63,000 tree seedlings (from 13 plant species) were produced at the Madiromirafy site nurseries for the 2022/23 tree planting season.
- 63,280 seedlings have been planted in the restoration zone and on the adjacent islands, covering an area of 8 ha.

The populations at the intervention site benefited from a community health program, thanks to HOVERAID's MMS project. **About 425 villagers had access to free health care.**

Awareness raising was carried out this year on the importance of reforestation, bushfire control and the closure of the fishing season. More than 1276 villagers attended these activities.



# MADIROMIRAFY SITE



**601 smallholders from 7 villages in the Madiromirafy site have benefited from the organization's support for community development activities**

Seeds, ducklings and agricultural materials were distributed, and we also provided appropriate training.

## **Our beneficiaries produced:**

2083.5 kg of leafy vegetables  
853kg cucumber  
517kg zucchini  
43kg bell pepper  
65.50kg onion  
611kg tomato  
29.38 tons of peanuts (1.01 tons per Ha)  
13.60 tons of mung beans  
73.17 tons of corn (1.66 tons per Ha)  
11.56 tons of paddy

Rainfed rice has long been a source of food for villagers during the lean season. Unfortunately, the crop suffered considerable damage this year from cyclones. Only a few beneficiaries had harvests. **To cope with this disaster, food subsidies were provided. 569 households were able to benefit.**

# DABOLAVA SITE

The discovery of Crowned Sifakas in the Amboloando forest in 2009 by our team led to the creation of the Dabolava conservation site.

This site, located in the Menabe region, Miandrivazo district, is very important because it is the southern limit of the geographical distribution of the crowned sifaka in the central western part of Madagascar.

Conservation activities are continuing by increasing the habitable reforested area to ensure the survival of the Crowned Sifaka population in a restricted and threatened habitat.

- 2.50 ha of degraded areas were restored by planting 13,000 seedlings.
- A production of 16,495 seedlings from 12 tree species was made at the Amboloando nursery for the 2023 reforestation. In addition, IMPACT Madagascar also established the VOI RIANALA nursery, intended for the production of 3 000 seedlings.



105 patrols were conducted, covering 94.50 ha of forest.

18 individuals of Crowned sifaka from 4 groups were counted, including two (2) newborns.

A new group of Crowned Sifaka was created. The new pair currently occupies a part of the habitat that has not been used for a long time but has undergone a vegetation evolution following restoration. The creation of this fourth group will hopefully contribute to an increase of birth rate in 2023.



Since bushfires are the most feared threat to natural resources in this area, 18.50 km of firebreaks and firewalls have been installed around the forests to protect them.

# DABOLAVA SITE

Technical and material support was provided this year at the site for villagers' agricultural and livestock activities.

**97 farmers were able to benefit.**



## **Our beneficiaries produced:**

52.27 tons of paddy with rainfed and irrigated rice crops.  
16.43 tons of corn  
171 poultry

A large part of the production was consumed, the remainder were sold and/or used as seeds for the next growing season.

The villagers' crops were affected by a locust invasion in late 2022. **IMPACT Madagascar provided support in teaching farmers how to mechanically control these insects and alert and conduct on-site locust control services.** The evolution of these locusts is being closely observed by our teams.



# MAHAJEBY SITE

A site in the central domain bordering the western zone, Mahajeby is the only remnant forest in the central domain that supports a critically endangered lemur species, the Crowned sifaka, and other biodiversity.

This site is important and potential for the conservation of species of both terrestrial and wetland ecosystems due to the richness of specific diversity that it harbors.



A total of 754 patrols were carried out, covering an area of 1188 ha.

The contract for the natural resources community management (forests and wetlands) at this site has been renewed for 10 years.

**83 individuals of Crowned Sifaka were counted.** A decrease of pressures and threats on the habitat was observed, at the rate of 23% compared to last year. The main threats to these resources are grazing, logging and brushfire

**1 km of firebreaks have been constructed to protect the conservation areas.**



**IMPACT conducted a data collection survey of the Mahajeby wetlands.**

Overexploitation remains the greatest threat to the sustainability and proper management of fisheries resources.

The lake faces immense pressures, despite its great biological, socio-economic and cultural value, and we're pleased to announce that preparations for its restoration have begun.

- 61,621 seedlings were planted in the restoration and reforestation areas as well as in the beneficiaries' plots. The total surface of the restored and reforested areas is 33.24 ha.
- 107,500 seedlings (from 10 tree species) were produced in the nursery to supply reforestation and restoration sessions for 2023



# MAHAJEBY SITE



IMPACT Madagascar helped provide a solar light kit for the community hospital, to improve working conditions for medical staff, and to provide quality medical care for local people.



The rural commune of Mahajebly has started to build a marketplace to improve and increase produce sales for local farmers. IMPACT Madagascar has contributed to the construction of one of the market stalls.

This year, our patrol guides are in their third year of participation in the **Wildlife Ranger Challenge!** Composed of 8 patrollers, Sifaka team and Fosa team ran a half-marathon, covering a distance of 21 km in 3 hours 31 min with over 22kg of gear. Our teams are proud to be the only Ranger teams hailing from Madagascar! The Wildlife Ranger Challenge is organized annually by Tusk Trust.

**439 farmers were able to benefit from our support in 2022,** despite the remote location of this site. We are working on improving access for all.

## Our beneficiaries produced:

- 158 tons of paddy
- 649 kg of angivy
- 58900 kg of leafy vegetables
- 643 kg of carrot
- 3320 kg of cabbage
- 6745 kg of cucumber
- 2980 kg of zucchini
- 2030 kg of onion
- 660 kg of bell pepper
- 16420 kg of tomatoes



This year, Mahajebly beneficiaries participated in an economic fair in Tsiroanomandidy. With the support of the IMPACT Madagascar, they were able to exhibit their local products and promote their area by presenting the importance of their villages, including the presence of a conservation site for Crowned sifaka. More than 500 visitors were able to visit their booths, and economic actors have made contact with them.

## VOHITRARIVO SITE

Located in the south-eastern part of Madagascar, in the Vatovavy region; Vohitrarivo, Sahofika and Ambodigoavy are particularly well known as conservation sites for large haplemurs such as the Greater bamboo lemur (*Prolemur simus*) outside of national parks.

Management of natural resources is being transferred to community conservation associations or VOI thanks to the technical and financial support of HELPSIMUS and IMPACT Madagascar.

**This site is important for biodiversity conservation.**



- 11515 seedlings have been planted in the restoration area of the 3 VOI's and in the beneficiaries' plots. A total area of 5 ha has been restored.
- At the end of the year 2022, 46,759 seedlings (from 27 tree species) have been produced in the 3 nurseries.

288 patrols were carried out, covering a total area of 2636 ha.

Illegal cutting and tavy (slash-and-burn land clearing) remain the primary threats to biodiversity in this area.

# VOHITRARIVO SITE

In partnership with HELPSIMUS Association, a school canteen program has been set up at five schools at the site to feed the children during school days so that hunger does not constitute a blocking factor to their studies. During the 2021-2022 school year, 67,896 meals were served.



A rice paddy monitoring program was managed by IMPACT starting this fiscal year. It aims to prevent the Greater bamboo lemur (*Prolemur simus*) from destroying villagers' crops. In the first half of the year, more than 672 plots of crops belonging to 131 beneficiaries in 15 zones were guarded from April to June 2022. During the second semester, 19 areas have been monitored since November.



**Our site, located in the Vatovavy region, was victim of the passage of cyclones ANNA, BATSIRAI and EMNATI this year. 138 houses and school documents were destroyed; infrastructures were weakened, several crops were ravaged. We lost 4200 seedlings in our site nurseries and 384 in reforested areas. 7 fish ponds were also cracked. Several months after the cyclones, the villagers can still feel their negative impact in their daily lives. Subsidies have been provided for food, seeds, blankets, and construction supplies.**

**Support was provided for market gardening, bean farming, rice cultivation and fish farming, benefitting 717 households.**

## **Our beneficiaries produced:**

More than 11150kg of leafy vegetables

1515kg of angivy

2890kg of carrot

5060kg of cucumber

1492kg of zucchini

4049kg of cabbage

1752kg of green bean

927kg of tomato

More than 5 tons of dry beans (1.04 tons per Ha)

More than 71 tons of paddy were harvested

2734 fish consumed and sold; more than 39,449 fry produced by breeding.

Two irrigation systems, in Sahandrazana and Ambohipo, were constructed, benefitting 37 households. A total of 6.75 ha of rice fields are now irrigated.



# Ambohijanahary Special Reserve

Last year, IMPACT Madagascar launched an expedition to inventory the western portion of Ambohijanahary forest, located in the Menabe and Melaky regions.

In 1958, the reserve occupied a total area of 24,750 ha, but in 2022, after years of threats and pressures (illegal hunting and logging, *favy* – slash-and-burn land clearing – and human penetration) ...only 7,000 ha of forest remain.

This is a 71% decrease in the total area of the reserve in 60 years, and its speed is alarming. This site harbors a unique biodiversity and serves important ecological purposes for local communities.

IMPACT Madagascar is currently seeking to raise funds in order to run conservation and community development activities for the area.

Please support our efforts via our website-

[IMPACTmadagascar.org/support-us](https://IMPACTmadagascar.org/support-us)



**The floristic and faunistic inventory of the reserve shows the presence of:**

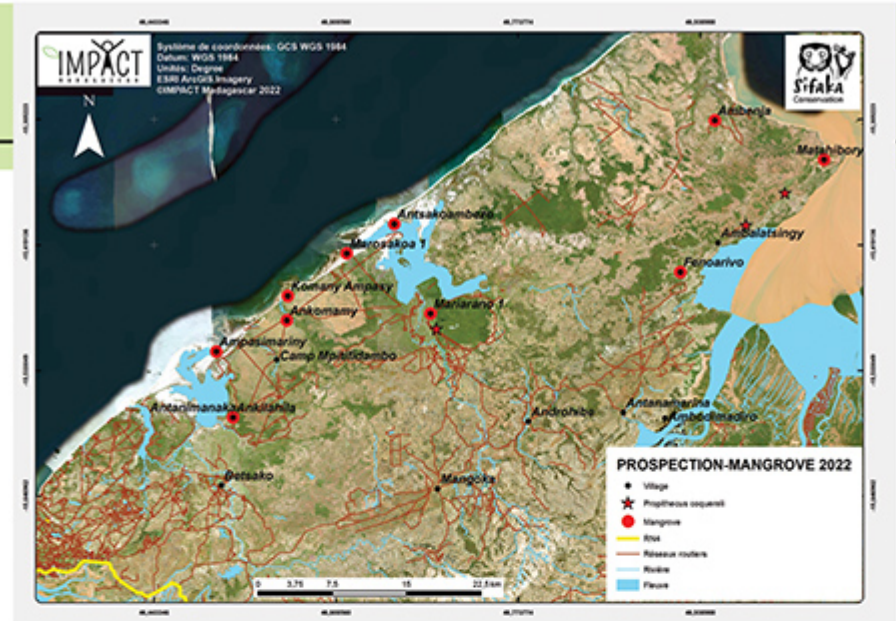
- 38 Von der Decken's sifaka (*Propithecus deckeni*), belonging to 13 groups
- 6 species of Madagascar Poison Frogs (*Mantellidae*)
- 7 species of reptiles
- 6 species of mammals
- Over 78 species of vascular plants belonging to 44 botanical families, of which 33 species are on the IUCN red list



## Survey in Mariarano & Betsako

This year, we started to explore potential coastal and mangrove sites in Majunga II, the communes of Mariarano and Betsako. 10 sites were visited, 6 of which have VOIs established managing natural resources. Our goal is to create an additional 4 VOIs to protect and manage sustainably the natural resources.

Conservation targets include *Propithecus coquereli*, *Eulemur fulvus*, *Eulemur mongoz*, *Cheirogaleus medius*, *Lepilemur edwardsi*, *Microcebus murinus*, *Microcebus ravelobensis*, *Phaner pallescens* and *Avahi occidentalis*.



## Western Sifaka Research Project

IMPACT Madagascar began a research project on Crowned sifaka and Coquerel's sifaka in the Boeny region. This project focuses on the study of the ecological niche of these two species and their implication in conservation.



A fauna inventory was conducted which allowed us to obtain preliminary data regarding lemur population density in the area. A flora inventory allowed us to describe the habitat characteristics in each zone and their regeneration rates. A phenological survey was started on trees fed by the sifaka species. Two groups of each sifaka species are being followed during these behavioral ecology studies.

**If you are interested in joining or learning more about our research, please contact us via our website.**

# Berenty Reserve / Ringtailed Lemur Project

IMPACT Madagascar monitored ringtailed and Brown lemur populations at Berenty Reserve, where introduced brown lemurs are in competition with the ringtailed lemurs. Our teams completed the sterilization of 15 female brown lemurs from 7 groups in the reserve, without issue. This is the first time this procedure has ever been done.

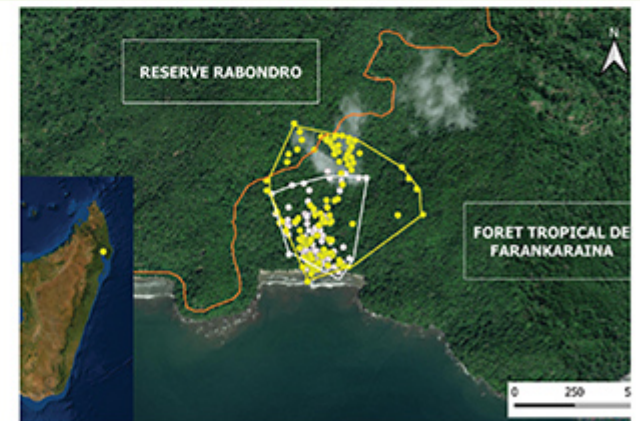
We will continue to assess the ecological interactions between these two species, as well as the efficacy of sterilization as a method of reducing competition between species.



# Red Ruffed Lemur Project



Our teams continue to monitor 8 Red Ruffed Lemurs (*Varecia rubra*) from 2 groups, released into the Farankaraina Reserve. Currently, both groups are adapting extremely well, ranging respectively in an area of roughly 12 to 28 Ha.

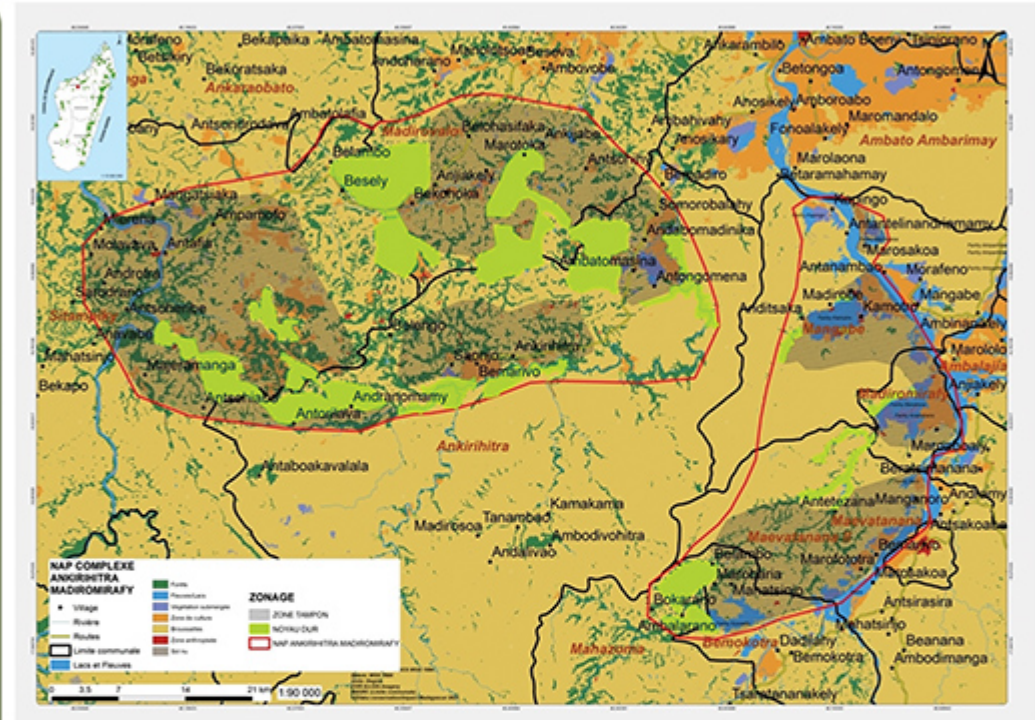


# New Protected Area (Ankirihitra - Madiromirafy)

Great progress has been made towards the creation of a new protected area thanks to the support of Re:Wild, The Ellen Fund, and Rainforest Trust.

A meeting of the SAPM (Protected Area System in Madagascar) commission was held. It highlighted the eligibility and admissibility of the documents prepared by the IMPACT Madagascar for the creation of the NPA Madiromirafy-Ankirihitra. The organizations, partners and actors working in the field of conservation present at the meeting unanimously agreed on the usefulness of the establishment of this new protected area. Following the meeting of the commission, the MEDD (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development) issued their favorable opinion for the IMPACT Madagascar to continue the processes related to the creation of the NPA Madiromirafy-Ankirihitra. Another subsequent meeting was held with the authorities of the Boeny region to communicate the expansion of the conservation program via the NAP. They fully support the project.

The proposal for a temporary protection order has been submitted to the MEDD (Ministry of Environment) . The conservation activities on the proposed protected area will continue while waiting for the temporary decree for the new protected area, expected by the end of 2023.



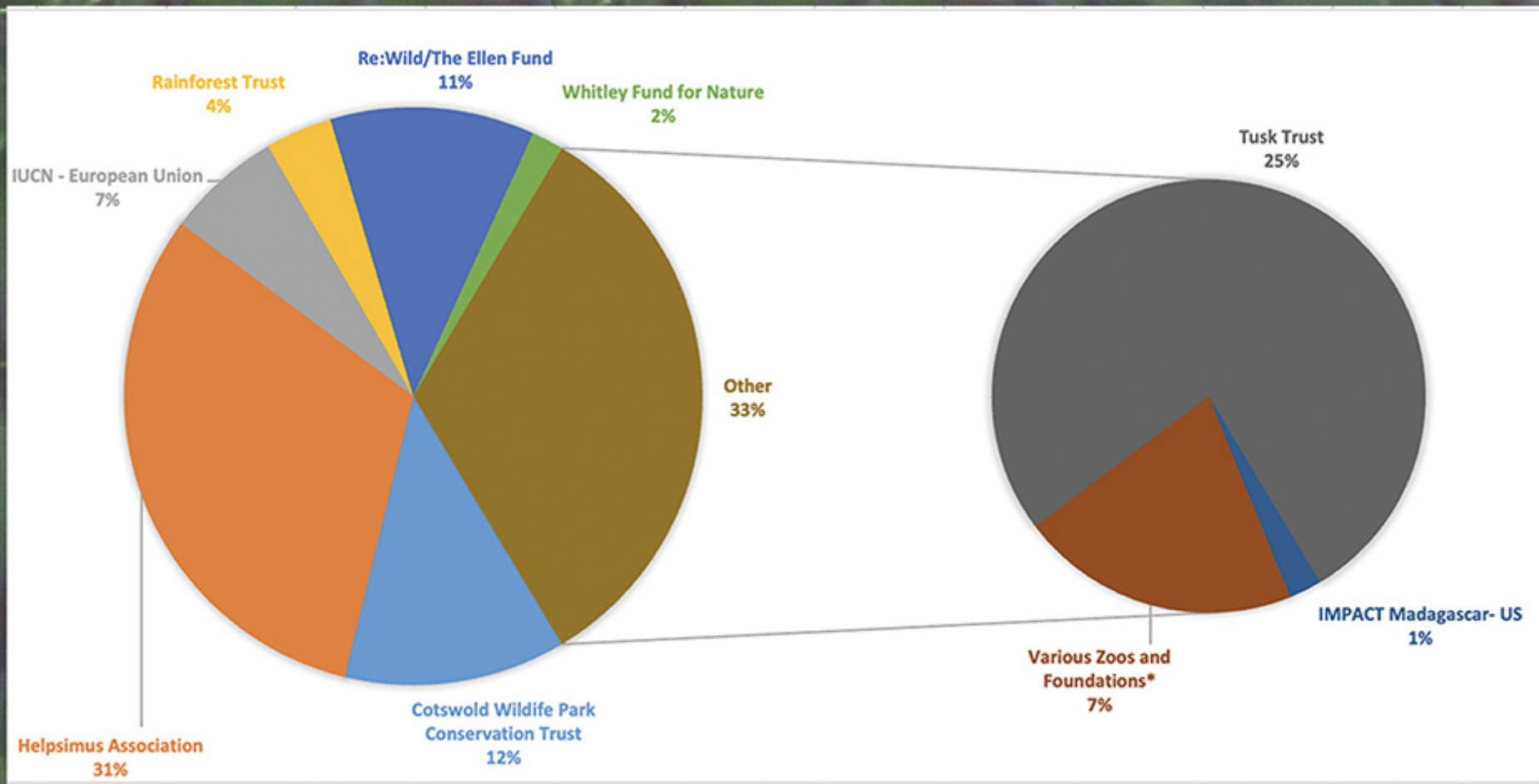
Our team is honored to have a visit from a potential partner, Rainforest Trust, to assess with us the biodiversity of the site, and the urgent need for its conservation.

A research and ecotourism camp is being constructed at the Madiromirafy site.

## 2022 Annual Totals (compared with 2021)

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Number of Patrol days	<b>1,933</b>	1,535
Number of saplings produced in the tree nurseries	<b>298,754</b>	203,565
Number of planted saplings	<b>173,347</b>	154,986
Surface restored/reforested (Ha)	<b>59</b>	54
Number of participants in tree planting events	<b>5,114</b>	4,423
Number of crowned sifaka counted	<b>408</b>	332
Number of beneficiaries (Smallholders)	<b>2,102</b>	3,430
Rice paddy produced (tons)	<b>351.83</b>	255.45
Corn produced (tons)	<b>89.60</b>	89.11
Peanuts produced (tons)	<b>29.38</b>	9.38
Mung beans produced (tons)	<b>13.60</b>	-
Beans produced (tons)	<b>5.00</b>	3.96
Poultry consumed and/or sold	<b>2,845</b>	747
Fish produced, consumed and/or sold	<b>2,734</b>	131
Amount of vegetables produced (tons)	<b>135.11</b>	95.24

# 2022 Financial Statement



This chart shows where our funding comes from based on the donors and the percentage of our total received funds.

\*Apenheul Primate Conservation Trust, Besancon Museum, Curraghs Wildlife Park, Heidelberg Zoo, La Palmyre Zoo, Mulhouse Zoo, and Tierpark Berlin

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS!  
Without you, none of this would be possible.

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