

**Annual report** 





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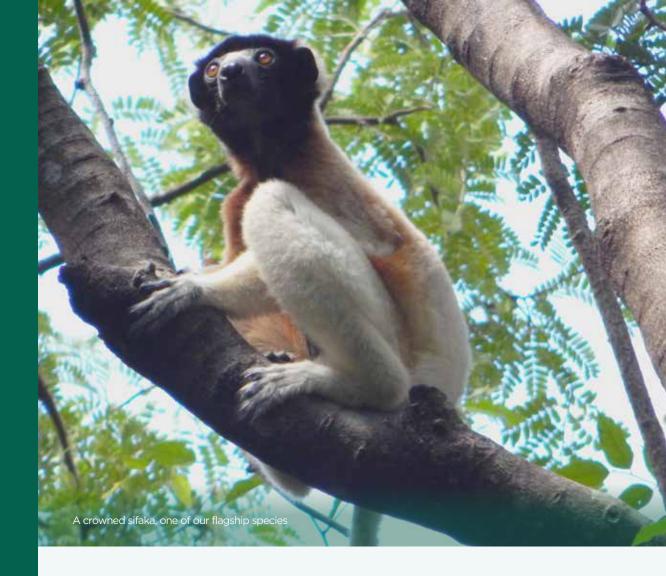


### A Message from the Team!

Madagascar, a land of unparalleled biodiversity, boasts an array of endemic plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth. Yet, this unique ecosystem is not just a haven for wildlife; it also sustains over 30 million people who call the island home. IMPACT Madagascar was conceived with the understanding that protecting the wildlife of Madagascar necessitates the active involvement of the communities that share this extraordinary landscape.

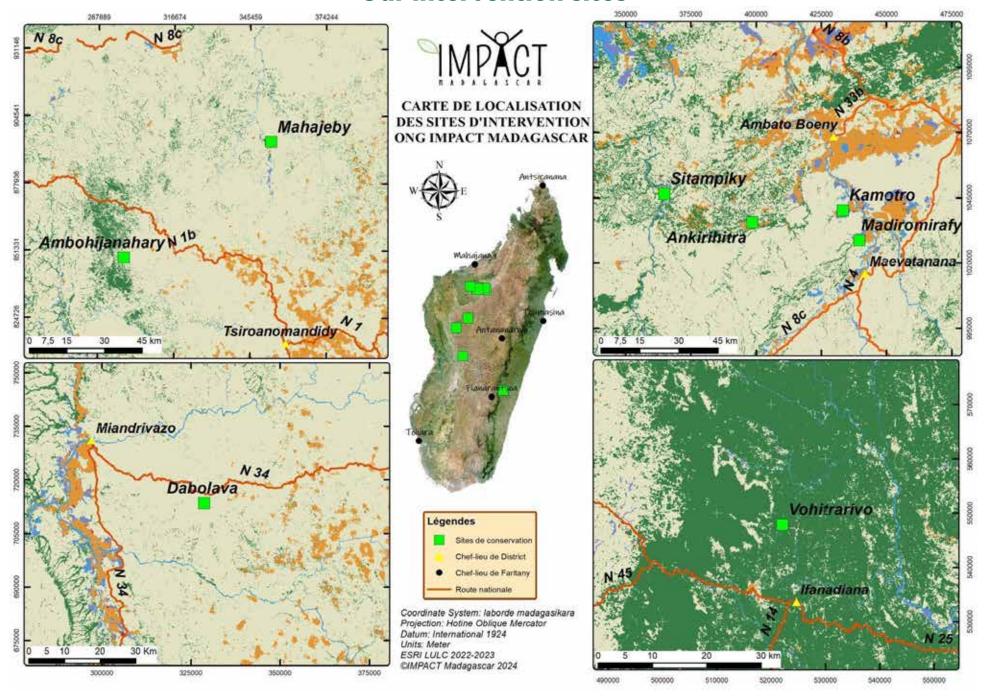
Since our inception in 2014, our focus has been on ecological conservation through community development. By introducing sustainable farming methods, we create income streams for local residents while actively engaging villages in monitoring and preserving nearby forests and habitats. Collaboration with government agencies has allowed us to establish protected areas and conduct vital ecological research across Madagascar.

Our distinctive approach underscores the significance of preserving forest ecosystems while addressing the needs of the communities reliant on them.

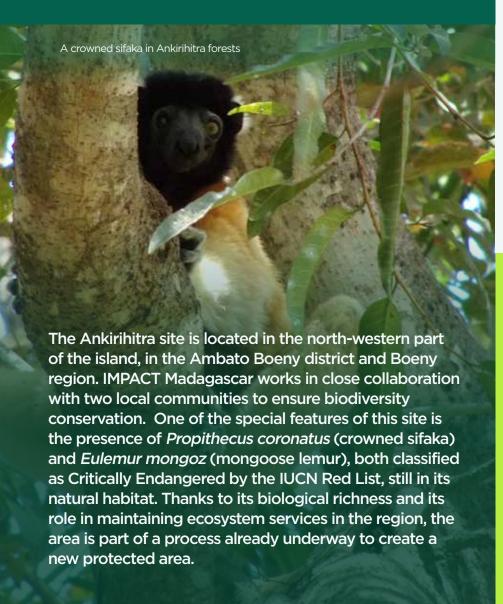


In the past year, we have achieved remarkable milestones, made possible by your support. This impact report will highlight those great achievements. As we look ahead, your continued support will enable us to carry forward this invaluable work into 2024 and beyond. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the conservation of Madagascar's rich biodiversity and the well-being of its people.

#### **Our intervention sites**



# An improved community engagement for conservation in Ankirihitra!











Compared with the 2021-2022 production year, the number of seedlings produced has increased by 47.89%. 12 km of firebreaks have been established. The area burnt and the number of fires have been considerably reduced by 47.16%.

The re-vegetated area has doubled compared with the 2021-2022 reforestation year, reducing the bare surface within the Ankirihitra conservation site; and creating possibility of forest connection.

### A total of 66,100 seedlings

have been produced at nurseries for the next reforestation and restoration campaign.

### In terms of ecological monitoring

A total of

1,555

**lemurs** were counted, including

**M** 

208

patrols were carried out by patrol guides over a total area of

6,564ha

897

individuals of crowned sifaka from **194 groups** 

552

individuals of brown lemurs (*Eulemur rufus*) from **97 groups** 

106
individuals of mongoose lemur from 42 groups

4 awareness-raising sessions, attended by 1,200 people, were held at the site to encourage local communities to participate in tree planting and forest restoration. An environmental education program in school was performed with 65 students.



The VOI VOAVONJY
Ankirihitra
natural resource
management transfer
was renewed in
September for
another 10 years.

**316** beneficiaries received technical support and agricultural materials at the Ankirihitra site during the 2023 campaign for the beekeeping, irrigated rice and vegetable cultivation programs. They cultivated around 7 ha of land and achieved a 47% improvement in production with rice cultivation, and 11% with vegetable crops. 8L of honey was collected this year. Their incomes have also risen, by around 30% with vegetable crops.

Overall, the production has improved, increasing food availability for the beneficiaries. Their incomes have also risen, enabling them to meet their daily needs and engage in other income-generating activities.

Signing the Natural Resource management contract with local communities



Thanks to the various supports, community participation in conservation activities such as reforestation has increased. Improved techniques have reduced the use of slash-and-burn cultivation, thus reducing the number of fires observed.

Following the cyclones at the beginning of the year, subsidies to support the communities daily needs were donated to 750 households.



Important sites within our New Protected Area: Sitampiky and Madirovalo

The Sitampiky and Madirovalo sites, located in the Ambato Boeny district, Boeny region, are part of the new Protected Area Madiromirafy-Ankirihitra currently being created. They are rich in biodiversity, both in terms of forest and aquatic ecosystems, as well as flora and fauna. The fauna includes species such as the critically endangered Madagascar fish eagle, the Madagascar big-headed turtle and other endemic species. In terms of

flora, there are ebony woods, *Dalbergia peltieri*, and many other interesting species.

A survey was carried out in 9 forests spread over 7 Fokontany in the two communes. 13 patrol guides were set up and trained, to carry out a survey in 1,000 ha of forest. This activity enabled us to understand the ecological status of these conservation sites and to make management decisions.

A total of

42

**lemurs** were monitored, including

brown lemurs (Eulemur rufus) from 6 groups

16 crowned sifaka from 3 groups

mongoose lemurs from **2 groups** 



In terms of development, a socioeconomic study has been carried out. The communities' main activities are agriculture, livestock breeding and fishing. Irrigation problems, lack of control over pests and diseases, the use of traditional techniques, the practice of slash-and-burn farming and taboos are the main factors holding back farmers in their livelihood activities. Development activities will be implemented in these zones from 2024, taking into account the socio-economic results from the survey.

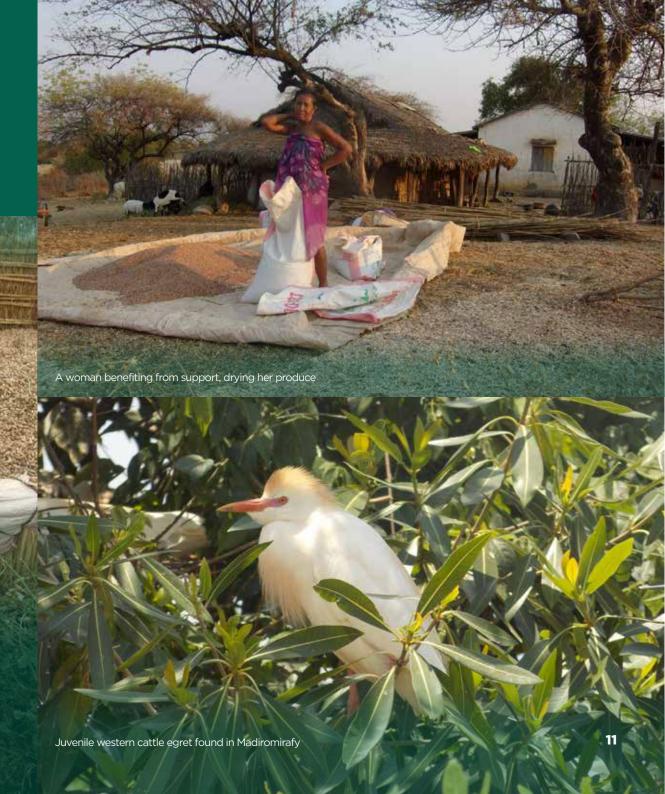
Logging, animal trapping and fires were the main pressures observed on the resources of both sites.

In Sitampiky, 4 groups with 13 individuals of Eulemur rufus were spotted

# Protected Ecosystem welcomes back Critically Endangered Species to Madiromirafy Site!

Groundnut production by a beneficiary in Madiromirafy

The Madiromirafy site, located in the Maevatanana district of the Betsiboka region, is one of the IMPACT Madagascar NGO's intervention sites in northwest Madagascar. Together with the local community, the organization manages a complex aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem that is home to a wide range of biodiversity, including endemic and critically endangered fauna such as crowned sifaka, Madagascar fish eagle, Madagascar big-headed turtle and Damba cichlid fish (*Paretroplus maculatus*). The site hosts an important population of crowned sifaka with 162 individuals in 25 groups.





618

patrols were carried out by the 16 patrollers at the site this year, on a surface area of



Illegal logging, charcoal burning, the presence of fishermen and illegal fishing gear, fire and shoreline development were the biggest threats identified this year.

### Pressure on the conservation area was found to be low.



of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems



Cyclones earlier this year destroyed homes and crops, notably rain-fed rice and groundnuts. Livestock died. As a result, deepening their poverty. Food subsidies were were held, attended by 650 people. granted, benefiting 600 farmers.

3 awareness-raising sessions on the reforestation program, the planting of phragmites along the riverbank, fishery communities went through a long lean period, resources, and the closing of the fishing season As for ecological restoration



62,25C

**seedlings** were planted by



434

people participants and patrol guides over a total area of





Women and communities were motivated to take part in the activities.



82,095

seedlings have been produced in nurseries



firebreaks have been built to protect the Mandrava forests and the reforestation zone from wildfire. As for wetlands



7,000

**small fishes** were restocked in the Anjiakely lake to restore this ecosystem.

193 appropriate fishing gears were distributed to fishermen, to improve their standard of living by offering new equipment, but also to reduce the number of non-regulation fishing gears used on the site. One pair of the Madagascar fish eagle is currently breeding in Lake Anjiakely and has been monitored.

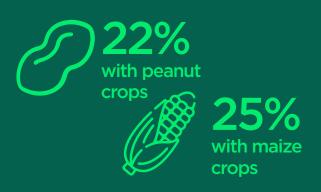
This year, the presence of the Malagasy pond heron and the Madagascar big headed turtle at Lake Anjikely and Tsiamidivola was recorded, indicating the ecosystem becoming undisturbed.



Thanks to the improved pest control and agricultural techniques. A large proportion of this was sold, from 40 to 90%, resulting in an increased revenue from 12 to 28% compared with the previous year, and even by 100% with groundnut crops.

The livelihood activities continued supporting 317 farmers at the Madiromirafy site in poultry farming, maize, groundnut and market gardening. As a result, a total of 245 poultry were obtained.

An average production at the household level improved by





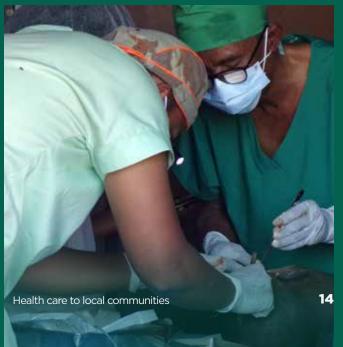


This situation enabled 7 beneficiaries to buy zebus, while others used their earnings to finance household expenses, their farms, access to healthcare, the construction and/or renovation of their homes.

#### In terms of community health

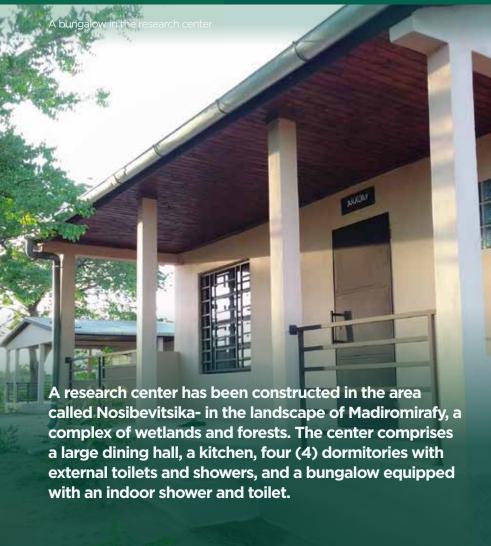


people benefited from community health support through HOVERAID's Medical Mission Safari project this year in the Mangabe commune and surrounding area. They benefited from general medicine, ultrasound, ophthalmology, dentistry, and surgery. Eight villages were targeted.



### A New research and visitor center in **Madiromirafy!**

TO ADVANCE ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND **ECOTOURISM IN MADAGASCAR** 





The facility is planned to accommodate (i) volunteers, researchers, or students, both Malagasy and foreign, engaging in research activities focused on ecosystems/ habitats, species, and communities that are most in need of assistance; (ii) visitors and tourists that are interested in supporting biodiversity conservation and community work, particularly those fascinated by aquatic ecosystems, gallery forests and large savannah in the middle of nowhere.

This research and visitor center serves to advance ecological research and conservation efforts.

Supported by





# A critical wetland ecosystem of Kamotro site

2023. It is characterized by complex terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, the best known of which is the

740-hectare Kamotro lake.

A crowned sifaka found in Kamotro fores The Kamotro site, commune Mangabe, district Maevatanana is one of the new sites managed by the organization with the local communities since this year

They are home to species such as the fish eagle, the damba cichlid fish, the Madagascar big headed-turtle, the crowned sifaka and the brown lemurs, which require conservation and restoration activities. This site also falls within the area covered by the new Ankirihitra-Madiromirafy protected area currently being created.

The community-based conservation program through the VOI SOANAVELA was formalized this year. The management committees have been trained and are now familiar with their roles and responsibilities. The surface area covers a total area of 5,480 ha.





patrols were carried out by the 12 patrol guides in

2023.

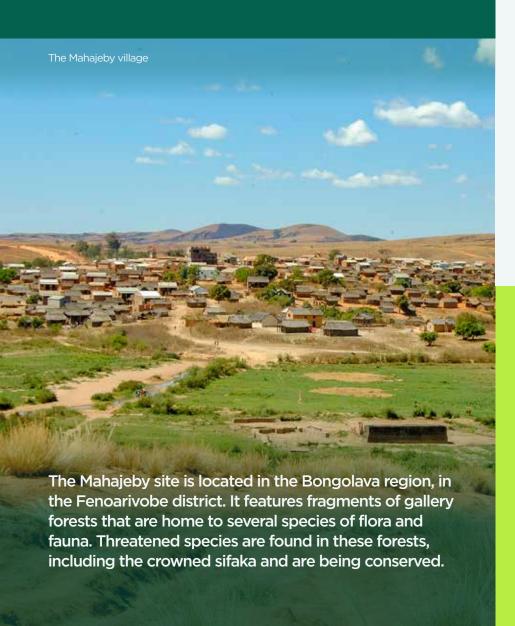
in a total of 223ha

Two (2) groups of the Madagascar Fish eagle, 28 individuals of crowned Sifaka - in 5 groups and 20 brown lemurs from 2 groups were monitored.

An inventory of the Madagascar big-headed turtle, Erhymnochelys madagascariensis in three rivers in the managed area revealed the presence of at least 20 individuals.

The socio-economic study revealed that the villagers' economic activities are mainly focused on fishing, agriculture, livestock breeding, charcoal production and other activities such as grocery and rice production. Support for rain-fed rice cultivation has been granted to the communities to kick-start livelihood development activities at the site, for which 219 farmers have benefited from training and received seeds.

### Sustainable livelihoods for Conservation in Mahajeby Site





The local population is massively involved in all conservation activities. 4 km of firebreaks have been built, reducing fire hazards on the edges of intervention forest fragments.

62,550 seedlings were produced at the Mahajeby nursery.



699

patrols were carried out by the 10 patrol guides in 2023.

in a total of 2,982ha



With regard to wetlands, preliminary data on the restoration of Lake Miangavy were obtained. The lake is heavily invaded by invasive *Poaceae species*. Its eutrophication rate is high. Local communities have started to manage and restore the lake: 14 patrol guides have been trained by the relevant regional services. They are now operational to monitor and control the lakes in Mahajeby.





Threats recorded include illegal logging, human tracks, cattle roaming in the conservation zone, charcoal-making, uncontrolled fires and other pressures. Two (2) offenders were apprehended. The local authorities and all villagers are now aware of the importance of the patrollers' roles.

12 villages were informed through campaign awareness on bushfire control, forestry legislation, wild animal hunting, reforestation, and VOI integration, reaching 1,200 participants.





With regards to the community development activities, technical and material support were provided to villagers' market gardens and rainfed rice production, for which **406** farmers benefited.

**20%** with rice



With rice cultivation, most of the harvest was consumed during the hunger period. This program helped beneficiaries to meet their needs during these periods. On the other hand, more than 80% of the vegetables produced this year were sold, and the revenue financed the beneficiaries' daily expenses, other income-generating activities, healthcare, and children's schooling.



This year, a beneficiary farmer of the market gardening program was able to buy 3 tons of paddy from the sale of

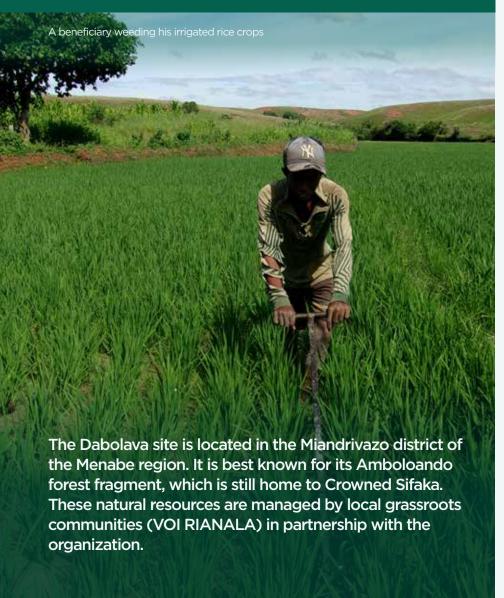
**vegetables** to prepare for the next rice-growing season. He testified that he could no longer do without this activity now, whereas before it was an alternative activity.



Thanks to the conservation contracts signed with them during the distribution of support, the beneficiaries, who are also VOI members, are aware of and actively participate in conservation activities such as reforestation, building firebreaks, putting out bushfires etc.

The number of VOI members has also increased.

# Zero fire in the conservation area for Dabolava site





168
patrols covering a total area of

140ha
were carried
out at the
Dabolava site.



Four groups with 17 individuals of *Propithecus coronatus* were monitored at the site, including one newborn. Five (5) groups are currently formed on the site.

The main pressures observed are gold mining, wild animal trapping, and fires.



The renewal of 12 km of firewalls around the reforestation area and the construction of 14 km of firewalls around the conservation area have also contributed directly to the goal of zero fire in the 92 ha conservation area. As a result, the habitat is now stable.



3.5<sup>ha</sup> of the site's restoration and reforestation zone

Increasing the reforested area in the conservation zone to





Monitoring of the reforested seedlings revealed a high survival rate of

80.25% > 65.62% in 2022





#### **Expanding community** conservation to another forest fragment!

A survey was carried out in Betrondro during

with irrigated rice

100% vegetables

With regard to the VOI's activities, the board In terms of community livelihoods, a plague of members and rangers have been renewed and this period with the aim to create community locusts destroyed villagers' maize and rainfed trained to improve their ability to manage the conservation in order to sustain the crowned rice crops at this site at the beginning of the year. Between 20% and 100% of crops were destroyed. natural resources in Dabolava area for the next 6 sifaka population in the Dabolava area. It is an evergreen gallery forest with one group of 9 As a result, a donation was made to 130 VOI crowned sifaka including 7 adults and 2 babies. members.

vears.

#### The communities benefited from conservation program in Vohitrarivo Site



The Vohitrarivo site, located in the Tsaratanana CR, Ifanadiana district, Vatovavy region, is known for its large hapalemur conservation project. The Helpsimus Association and IMPACT Madagascar are working closely together to conserve this critically endangered greater bamboo lemur and its habitat. Other lemur species, fauna and flora are also found in the managed forests. The site comprises three VOIs: MIARADIA (Vohitrarivo), SAMIVAR (Sahofika) and MANIRISOA (Volotara).



**patrols** were carried out by



**51 forest guard** in the three communities



on a surface area of **2,636**ha of forest

86,900 seedlings were produced in four (4) nurseries for the next reforestation season.



34,518 seedlings were planted on 8.94 ha of land in the restoration and reforestation zones and private plots. W S

With regard to the school canteen in the 5 intervention schools, 89,952 meals were served during the 2022-2023 school year. This has helped to improve school results.



The CEPE exam pass rate has risen considerably, from 23% in 2022 to 71% this year.



The number of communities participating in reforestation projects rose considerably this year, from 620 to 2,064. The number of registered VOI members has also increased.



With regards to the lemur-attack on rice fields, a guarding program was put in place. In the first half of the year, 1,234 rice fields belonging to 187 beneficiaries were guarded against looting by hapalemurs. They cover a total area of 34 ha. Looting of these rice fields fell sharply during the campaign, with only 4% of the rice fields affected, compared with 12% during the previous campaign. Crops are still being monitored for Semester II.



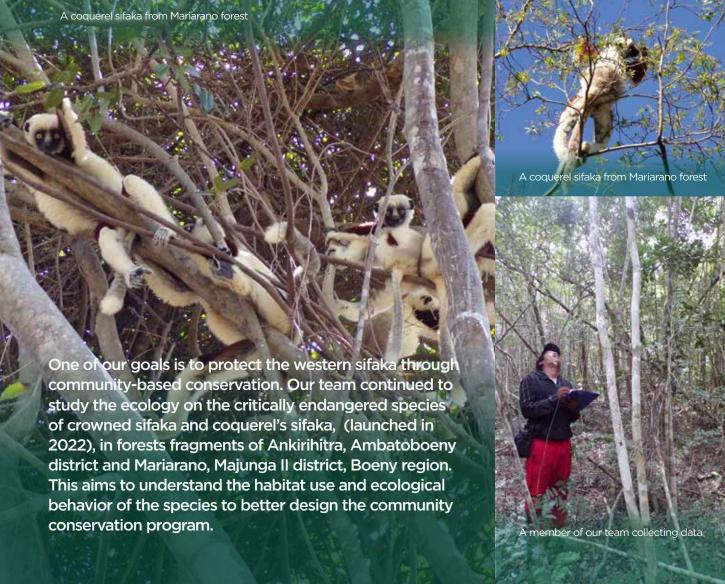


With regard to support for incomegenerating activities in local communities, 850 farmers benefited this year from the fish farming, irrigated rice, bean cultivation and vegetable production programs. The production improved by 8% for irrigated rice, and by 48% for vegetables. A decrease of 33% and 58% was observed with bean and fish farming respectively.

The construction of irrigation systems in Sahandraza and Ambohipo was completed this year. They benefited more than 40 households. The rice fields, established over a total area of 6.75ha, are now well irrigated and have contributed to improving beneficiaries' production by up to 5-7 T/ha

### **Ecological surveys** of Crowned and Coquerel's Sifaka

Other mammals were also inventoried such as mongoose lemur, brown lemurs, black lemurs, sportive lemur, Avahi and Tenrec.

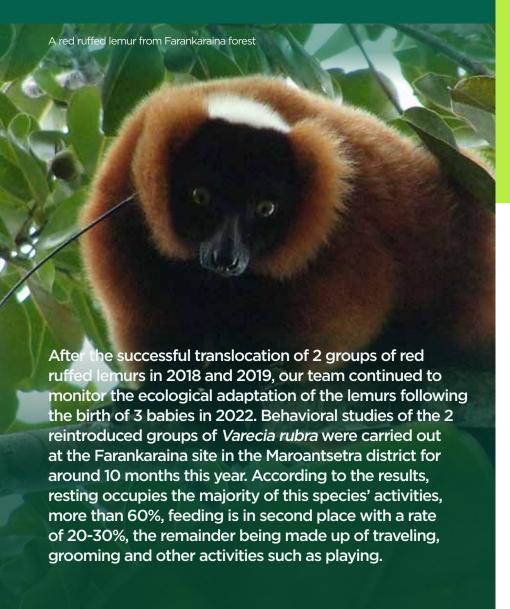




For the study targets, the population density of *P. coronatus* varies between 0.47 ind/km2 and 1.65 ind/km2 (with a total of 560 individuals monitored), while the density of *P. coquereli* is from 0.1 ind/km2 to 0.29 ind/km2 (404 individuals monitored). The population surveys took place in fragmented, dry, deciduous forests for 21 days at Ankirihitra and 27 days at Mariarano. The vegetation strata were well-defined at both sites, with an open canopy.

2 sifaka groups per site were monitored using focal animal sampling. The results show that resting remains the dominant activity for both species followed by feeding and traveling. Leaves and fruits are the main food sources for both lemur species. The plant species consumed vary according to site and availability: 16 plant species for *P. coronatus* at the Ankirihitra, 24 to 27 species for *P. coquereli* at Mariarano. The sifaka species range from 3 to 10 m in height to carry out their activities. The results will help improve the conservation program for these species in their natural habitat.

# Red Ruffed lemurs in the Farankaraina Rainforest



Behavioral variation can be observed according to season and food availability. The species prefers to use the middle and upper strata. The home range of the red ruffed lemurs in the Farankaraina rainforest is around 25-26 ha. In terms of feeding behavior, fruit is the staple food of the species, occupying 87.33% of their diet. A total of 21 species of plant are being consumed by the species.





Other activities, such as the fauna inventory, were also carried out in this area. 231 lemur individuals divided into six (6) species, 94 individuals of *Lophotibis cristata* or *crested ibis* and Fossa were observed.



#### Wildlife Ranger Challenge with Tusk Trust

The Sifaka team crossing the finish line of the WRC

Two teams of Mahajeby patrollers, each comprising 4 people, once again took part in the "Wildlife ranger challenge".

During this fourth edition, they took part in four (4) types of challenge:

- The "big ranger quizz challenge": consisting of answering 40 questions in 20 minutes; the 2 teams, Sifaka and Fosa, were ranked in the top 50 of the 100 teams taking part in June; they answered more than half the questions asked and scored 70,000 and 64,800 points respectively.
- The push-up challenge: the aim was

- to do as many push-ups as possible in 2 minutes; team B-Fosa did 112 push-ups and team A-Sifaka 102.
- Sit-up challenge: do as many abdominal exercises as possible in 2 minutes; 207 sit-ups were performed by team B-Fosa and 195 by team A-Sifaka.
- The big marathon: participants had to run 21 km with 22 kg of luggage.





With this last challenge, the
A-Sifaka team secured the 7th
position, completing the race in
a remarkable time of 2 hours, 30
minutes, and 53 seconds, while
the B-Fosa team claimed the 9th
spot with a time of 2 hours, 32
minutes, and 27 seconds.



### Managing The New Protected Area Ankirihitra-Madiromirafy

A member of the local communities sharing what he learned from the Community management contract training

IMPACT Madagascar has received a letter from the Direction Générale de la Gouvernance Environnementale confirming that the organization is the promoter of the New Ankirihitra-Madiromirafy Protected Area. The promulgation of the decree temporarily protecting the area is still pending.

In the meantime, the MIRARI project and Natural Justice provided training on the Community Management Agreement (CMA) to our team and 24 community members from Madiromirafy. This agreement plays an important role in the New Protected Area creation process, as it defines the rights and responsibilities of local stakeholders in the management and implementation of the Environmental and Social Management of Protected Areas. It was found that participants were familiar with the meaning of the CMA, and the definition of rights and obligations. They also mastered the steps to follow to establish the CMA.

Activities aimed at conserving biodiversity, protecting the environment and improving the living standards of riparian communities are still ongoing, as part of the operationalization of the protected area.





# Taking over the management of the unique Ambohijanahary Special Reserve!



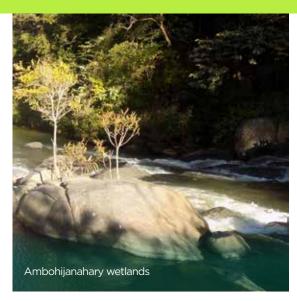




Following the survey carried out in this Protected Area in 2022, the technical departments (from the regional office of the Ministry of Environment) - DREDD Menabe, DREDD Melaky, DIREDD Itasy-Bongolava - carried out a mission this year to prepare the area for a new promoter to take over the

management and conservation of this unique reserve. This will enable our team to decide on the Management Plan of the special reserve. The three entities have given their approval for IMPACT Madagascar to manage these resources.

The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development issued a management certificate to the IMPACT Madagascar to run the conservation program of the Ambohijanahary Special Reserve. Local communities will be put at the center of the program to ensure the sustainability of conservation work in the area.



#### **CONSERVATION OUTCOMES**

Designation	Unit	2022	2023
Number of patrol days	Patrol days	1933	2 064
Number of seedlings produced in nurseries	Seedlings	298 754	316 785
Number of saplings planted	Saplings	173 347	241 929
Surface area restored/reforested/planted	На	59	72
Number of reforestation participants	People	5 114	5 172
Number of crowned sifaka inventoried	Ind.	408	1207
Number of brown lemur inventoried	Ind.	88	620
Number of mongoose lemur inventoried	Ind.	16	110
Number of coquerel Sifaka inventoried	Ind.	0	404

#### 2023 Totals Compared With 2022 : Conservation and Communities

#### **COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS OUTCOMES**

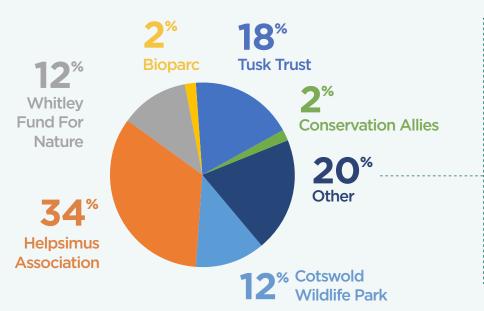


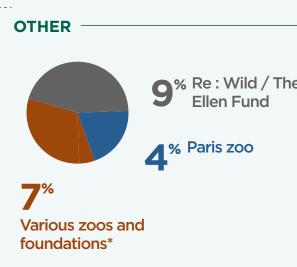
Unit	2022	2023
Beneficiaries	2 102	2 219
Tons	351.83	420
Tons	89.6	71
Tons	29,38	43
Tons	13.6	0
Tons	5	4
Poultry	2 845	245
Fish	2 734	1144
Tons	135.11	107
Liters	0	8
	Beneficiaries Tons Tons Tons Tons Tons Poultry Fish Tons	Beneficiaries 2 102 Tons 351.83 Tons 89.6 Tons 29,38 Tons 13.6 Tons 5 Poultry 2 845 Fish 2 734 Tons 135.11

#### Financial statement

Here below are the stats showing where our funding comes from based on the donors and the percentage of our total received funds

#### **OUR REVENUES & INCOMES**





\* Tierpark Berlin, Heidelberg Zoo, Apenheul Primate Conservation Trust. Besancon Museum, La Palmyre Zoo, Mulhouse Zoo, Chester Zoo, Kölner Zoo, University of Aberdeen, Rheine Zoo. Cotswold Wildlife Park. Zoo de Lille, Garden Trust and Curraghs Wildlife Park.

#### **ANNUAL EXPENSES**



**Habitat restoration** 



Community Community development grouvernance

**5**%

18.7K



Community infrastructure



**Research camps** and visitor centers



Here below is a table of our annual expenditures

Conservation management



**Personnel costs** 

#### **Our donors**



























PARC ZOOLOGIQUE PARIS





















#### Our partners

































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