



***Annual Report 2022 & Annual Work Plan 2023***

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**FOREWARD :**

This document summarizes the results of all activities undertaken between January to December 2020 within the forest of Andilambologno and the village of Mahitsihazo. The activities are focused on the different aspects including reduction of forest pressures, update of lemur population size, improvement of living conditions of the local community, and increase of the local community awareness about the protection of lemur species and its forest habitat.

**STUDY SITE :**

The Andilambologno forest is located in the north-western part of Madagascar, at the east of the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park, within the Sofia Region, commune Maromandia and Mahitsihazo is the nearest village. The vegetation comprises degraded semi-deciduous forest and subhumid forest with dominance of *Dalberia sp.* and *Bridelia pervilleana*. The forest is rich in term of biodiversity richness. The following lemur species including the critically endangered blue-eyed black lemur (*Eulemur flavifrons*), the endangered northern giant mouse lemur (*Mirza zaza*) and the vulnerable western gentle lemur (*Hapalemur occidentalis*) that are restricted in the north and northwestern part of Madagascar are present within the forest of Andilambologno. Several species of reptiles and amphibians, small mammals and birds also inhabit the forest. The endangered frog, *Cophyla berara* which is recently discovered and restricted to the forest of the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park is also present within the forest of Andilambologno.

**RESULTS**

***1. Reduction of forest pressures***

Forest patrolling were carried out regularly in order to control the forest pressures within the forest. Four (4) local rangers are working in a rotational schedule and 15 days per month. In total 170 forest patrolling were carried out over 12 months. Through the funding from the Conservation Allies, a fire-break was established in October 2022 and lasted 7 days. The local community were informed one month before the establishment of the fire-break, and we also visited the area where the fire-break is created. It was the first time that we organized a fire break in the forest of Andilambologno. In total, we established more than 1 km of a fire-break with 10 m width and approximately, about 50 people from the village of Mahitsihazo including villagers, the soccer team members and the local rangers have participated to this activity.



***Photo 1 : Preparation of the fire-break***



***Photo 2 : Establishment of the fire-break***



***Photo 3 : Local rangers during the creation fire-break wearing T-shirts from the Conservation Allies***



**Photo 4 : Fire-break created**

Few trees cutting down due to the cyclones were recorded during the forest patrolling. Any human activity was observed within the forest core over the year. The only issue that we encountered was a villager who prepared a rice field close to the north-western boundary of forest, close to the establishment of the fire break. We have already informed and discussed with the head of the Mahitsihazo village and the villager has agreed to leave the land.

## **2. Update of the lemur population size**

The local rangers are also conducting lemur survey during daytime. They collected data four days a week. Information recorded are : vernacular name of the species, date of the observation, activity of the animal, number of the individual encountered, number of male and female, height of the substrate. Three (3) transects were followed and the length of the transect varied between 1.5km to 2km. Over the year, transects were followed 1200 times. Four (4) groups of the western lesser bamboo lemur (*Hapalemur occidentalis*) were counted and the group size ranged between 2 to 4 individuals. Five (5) groups of the blue-eyed black lemur (*Eulemur flavifrons*) ranging from 4 to 10 individuals were recorded. Lemur data analysis is ongoing and and we plan to publish the results.



***Photo 5 : A female blue-eyed black lemur with an infant***

### ***3. Improvement of living conditions of the local community***

In order to decrease the dependence of the natural resources, we have implemented alternative livelihoods project within the village of Mahitsihazo, close the forest of Andilambologno forest. Two activities have implemented at the beginning, including bee keeping and maize cultivation and we added a third activity, poultry at the second semester of the year.

In December 2021, 47 households received maize seeds, each household had 5 cups which is about 1.5kg. In April 2022, we did a monitoring of the maize crop and we found that 80% of the beneficiaries had a good harvest. In average, each household produced 30kg of the maize and they used the corn cobs for food, for the poultry and also served seeds for the next crop season.



***Photos 6: Maize harvest***

In April 2022, we have distributed ten (10) bee hives for 10 households, each person who received the bee hives will collect the queen bees by themselves. It is noted that the local community in Mahitsihazo village was already trained in bee keeping in 2010. We supposed to distribute more bee hives but the beneficiaries encountered a problem on bee keeping. The beneficiaries reported that during the hot season, the swarm left the hives and went to the ocean, in the mangrove, and then came back to the hives in winter. The villagers did not know the reason but they thought that the swarm preferred to colonize the mangrove when it is warm. They can collect the honey only in June and July. The beneficiaries did not produce much honey, they got a few liters over the project period. We plan to put some hives in the mangroves but villagers said that it is not secured.



***Photo 7: Bee hive with swarm***

During the second semester, additional 30 households received maize seeds (5 cups or 1.5kg of seeds per family). The maize cultivation is growing well.



***Photo 8: Maize field***

We supposed to distribute more bee hives this second semester but we changed it to poultry project. 50 households benefitted the poultry project, each household received either 3 hens and 1 cock or 3 female ducklings and 1 male duckling.



***Photo 9: Distribution of the poultry to the villagers***

In January 2023, during the monitoring, we found that the number of chicken and duck raised has tripled in the majority of the beneficiaries of the poultry project.



***Photo 10 : Duck raised in one beneficiary***



***Photo 11 : Duck and chicken raised in one beneficiary***

***4. Increase of the local community awareness about the protection of lemur species and its forest habitat***

Over the year, three (3) awareness raising events were carried out during the World Environmental Day, Lemur Festival and creation of fire-break. During these events, we organized environmental quizz for school children and sensitization and film documentary broadcasting about the protection of the lemur and its forest habitat. In total 176 people including school children attended these events. We have distributed the following education materials over the year : 200 T-shirts, 100 posters, 200 stickers (10x10cm) and 24 stickers in

A4 format. These materials were distributed to the local community, schools and local authorities.



**Photo 12 : Distribution of the calendars 2022**



**Photo 13 : A poster with a conservation message**



***Photo 13 : Mini-sticker in the door of a local community member***

### ***5. Construction of a base research camp***

Through the funding from the Conservation Allies, Tropikariet zoo and individuals donors, we will build a base research camp in the village of Mahitsihazo. The base research camp will be built close to the village of Mahitsihazo. The majority of the materials needed are already transported including rocks, rubble stones and gravels. Construction of the cinder blocks were done. Construction of the research camp will start in 2023 and the goal is to complete along the year.



***Photos 14 : Transportation of the rocks for the construction of the base research camp***



***Photo 15 : Rubble stones and gravels***



***Photo 16 : Cinder blocks***

## **Conclusion**

Overall all activities implemented went well, it is noted that alternative livelihoods implemented responded to the needs of the local community through interview. However, we found that the bee keeping needs more attention as swarms left the hives during the dry

season. As result, the beneficiaries did not produce much honey as expected. A research on the swarm migration during the dry season is interesting. We will provide uniforms and equipment for the forest patrollers including wait cost, bag, rain coat and shoes. Working during the rainy season is a bit difficult to them without appropriate equipment. As the forest is still unprotected, we will set up signs to delimit the forest and to avoid illegal human activity within the forest. The basic research camp should be furnished such as table, chairs, solar panel and beds.

Andilambologno forest is rich in term of biodiversity, Mikajy Natiora Association is the first to discover this forest. The Association will ensure the sustainability of the various activities aiming to the conservation of the biodiversity particularly lemurs and the protection of the forest habitat. Therefore we continue to seek funding on a regular basis. We acknowledge the following donors : Van Tinehoven Foundation, Brevard Zoo, Re : Wild, Stiftung Artenschutz, Tropikariet zoo, Audibon Naturalist Society/ Crowder Messersmith, without their support we were unable to implement the various activities.

### Annual Work Plan & Budget 2023

Annual activity and budget 2023	Period			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Conservation and community activities and budget</b>				
Forest patrolling				
Rangers salary	300 000,00	300 000,00	300 000,00	300 000,00
Monitoring of the alternative livelihoods implemented				
Travel		600 000,00	600 000,00	600 000,00
Food		1 125 000,00	1 125 000,00	1 125 000,00
Preparation of education materials : calendars, posters, powerpoint presentation				
Education and outreach events : Earth day, World Environmental Day, Lemur Day		1 000 000,00	1 000 000,00	
Travel		600 000,00	600 000,00	
Food		1 125 000,00	1 125 000,00	
Madagascar sacred ibis population survey				
Travel		600 000,00	600 000,00	
Food		1 125 000,00	1 125 000,00	
Evaluation of threats of the Madagascar sacred ibis : Questionnaires survey / household or focus group				
Working with local expert for the assessment and education				
Salary		400 000,00		400 000,00
Pirogue		100 000,00		100 000,00
Construction of the base research camp				
Purchase of construction materials (Cement, sands, gravel, iron, Sheet metal,.....				
Salary of contractor				
Transportation		2 500 000,00	2 500 000,00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>300 000,00</b>	<b>9 475 000,00</b>	<b>8 975 000,00</b>	<b>2 525 000,00</b>

<b>Running activity and budget</b>				
Tsiory salaries	600 000,00	600 000,00	600 000,00	600 000,00
Travel	600 000,00	600 000,00	600 000,00	600 000,00
Food	1 125 000,00	1 125 000,00	1 125 000,00	1 125 000,00
Internet	750 000,00	750 000,00	750 000,00	750 000,00
Telephone card	300 000,00	300 000,00	300 000,00	300 000,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 375 000,00</b>	<b>3 375 000,00</b>	<b>3 375 000,00</b>	<b>3 375 000,00</b>
<b>Annual Total Ariary</b>	<b>3 675 000,00</b>	<b>12 850 000,00</b>	<b>12 350 000,00</b>	<b>5 900 000,00</b>
<b>Annual Total in Euro</b>	<b>7403,36</b>	<b>2825,10</b>	<b>2714,71</b>	<b>1297,05</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL 14240,22 EUROS</b>				
Conservation grant searching and writing				