



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 & ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2024



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Table of content

I. ANNUAL REPORT 2023	3
A. FOREWARD	3
B. STUDY SITE	3
C. RESULTS	3
1. Reduction of forest pressures	3
2. Update of the lemur population size	4
3. Madagascar sacred ibis survey & evaluation of threats	5
4. Improvement of living conditions of the local community	6
5. Increase of the local community awareness about the protection of lemur species and its forest habitat	7
6. Construction of a Research/Education Center	8
7. Any Other Business	9
a. Children's Christmas	9
b. International Primatological Society Congress 2023	11
c. Forest corridor project between the Andilambologno forest and Ambodinambohimarina.	12
D. CONCLUSION	13
II. ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2024	15

List of photos

Photo 1 Clearance on the edge of forest	Photo 2 Rangers	4
Photo 3 Western bamboo lemur in Andilambologno forest		4
Photo 4 Questionnaires in village	Photo 5 Sacred ibis observation	5
Photo 6 Educational T shirt with sacred ibis and message		6
Photo 7 Beneficiary of the alternative livelihood activity		6
Photo 8 Cleaning	Photo 9 After cleaning	7
Photo 10 Lunch with community	Photo 11 Funny games	7
Photo 12 Minister visited our stand	Photo 13 visitors of stand	8
Photo 14 Building		9
Photo 15 Windows	Photo 16 Roof	9
Photo 17 Cookies	Photo 18 Teachers	10
Photo 19 Kids dancing		10
Photo 20 Russ Mittermeir with Mikajy Natoria's jacket		11
Photo 21 Malagasy delegates		12
Photo 22 Forest in Ambodinambohimarina		12
Photo 23 Slash and burn agriculture around the mountain		13

Without the support of the following donors and partners, we could not implement the activities to support local population. We would like to express our most heartfelt appreciation for your generous donation and support.



I. ANNUAL REPORT 2023

A. FOREWARD

This document summarizes the results of all the activities undertaken by the Mikajy Natiora association between January and December 2023 in the Andilambologno forest and the village of Mahitsihazo. The activities focus on various aspects, including reduction of forest pressures, update of lemur population, improvement of living conditions of the local community, and raising local community awareness about the protection of the biodiversity mainly lemur species and its forest habitat.

B. 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.

C. 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, 165 forest patrols were carried. Any tree cutting was recorded within the forest, however, close to the forest edge, a clearance for rice field (approximately 0, 04 acre) was found on November 24th. The person cut down tree to clear the area, he did not yet put fire on this. Our team saw this and to solve the problem locally, we reported this issue to the head of the village, he discussed with the villager. We were informed that villager had stopped definitely the forest clearance.

We offered them uniform and material such as GPS and lamps.



Photo 1 Clearance on the edge of forest



Photo 2 Rangers

2. Update of the lemur population size

The local rangers are still continuing regular lemur survey. During the survey, the following information were collected: 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. In total, three (3) transects were followed, the length of the transect varied between 1.5km to 2km. In total, nine (9) groups of the blue-eyed black lemur were recorded as follows: 5 group counted within the transect T1, 3 groups within the transect T2 and only one group encountered within the transect T3. The group sizes ranged from 2 to 10 individuals with a mean of 5.17 individuals. In total, found during the survey we also counted three (3) groups of the western lesser bamboo lemur (*Hapalemur occidentalis*) and the group size ranged between 2 to 4 individuals.



Photo 3 Western bamboo lemur in Andilambologno forest

3. Madagascar sacred ibis survey & evaluation of threats

Through the funding from Stiftung Artenschutz, we have implemented a project on the Madagascar sacred ibis. Activities included update of the population of the Madagascar sacred ibis outside the protected area; identification of threats and increase of local community awareness about the need of the protection of this endangered bird. In total, seven (7) individuals of the Madagascar sacred ibis were recorded in the site Antsirandolo.

We conducted questionnaire survey in local language to identify the bird's threats. Up to now 45 households from two villages were surveyed about the bird's threats.

We produced 200 TShirt, 50 posters and 25 stickers. We have distributed 50 T shirts to the local community including local authorities and teachers in Mahitsihazo village.

On the tshirt; there are sacred ibis photo, message saying that protecting sacred ibis, thinking about tomorrow. There are logos of Ministry of Environment of Sustainable Development, Mikajy Natiora and Stiftung Artenschutz. As seen in photo 06 page 06.

We did a radio interview for the sacred ibis raising awareness (FM 103 Mhz Soafy Radio in Antsohihy).



Photo 4 Questionnaires in village



Photo 5 Sacred ibis observation

This project is still ongoing, survey close to the Loza Bay will be carried in the beginning of next year. More questionnaire survey will be carried out within the villages close to the Loza Bay will be surveyed in January 2024.

Regarding the awareness raising on the Madagascar sacred ibis species, We will continue to distribute to the villagers more educational materials such as calendars and T-shirts in 2024.



Photo 6 Educational T shirt with sacred ibis and message

4. 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. Three (3) activities have implemented including bee keeping, fast growing crop (maize) and poultry rearing since 2021.



Photo 7 Beneficiary of the alternative livelihood activity

5. 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: Earth Day, celebration of 10th anniversary of Mikajy Natiara, and during Mangrove Day.

✓ The earth day was organized on April 22nd in Mahitsihazo. We took the international topic which is invest to our planet. We undertook a group cleaning. The school yard was cleaned up by the villager. After that, we organized a friendly meal and fun game. In total, 200 people were present during this events.



Photo 8 Cleaning



Photo 9 After cleaning



Photo 10 Lunch with community



Photo 11 Funny games

✓ 10th year anniversary celebration in Mahitsihazo on July 24th, Mikajy Natiara was founded in 2023 by enthusiastic biologist in order to protect the biodiversity, to raise awareness and support the villagers. The Regional Director of Environment and Sustainable Development, Local Forestry Chief, Mayor of Maromandia and representative of Regional

Directorate of National Education were present during the celebration. There were carnival to welcome the guest, speeches, traditional dance and environmental quiz for school children, In total 500 people were present and we offered them meal. We also distributed 200 T-shirts with environmental messages and 50 posters.

A live telephone game is also organized during 3 days before the celebration on SOAFY radio FM 103 MHz in Antsohihy in which listeners can participate.

The celebration of the 10th year was broadcasted on National TV.

✓ The World Mangrove Day was celebrated in Antsohihy during 3 days from 2nd to 4th of August. Approximately, 20 conservation NGOs participated to this festival, Mikajy Natiora was present during this event. We set up a stand to display our activity related to the protection of the mangroves. We also participated to the carnival. About 100 persons visited our stand. We distributed 100 ibis poster and 50 educative stickers

We offered our T-shirt of 10th anniversary to the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development and her staff during her visit of our stand.



Photo 12 Minister visited our stand



Photo 13 visitors of stand

6. Construction of a Research/Education Center

Through the funding from the Conservation Allies, Tropikariet zoo and individuals donors, we were able to build a Research/Education Center. This building was constructed in the village of Mahitsihazo. The center is composed of 03 rooms including 01 meeting rooms (4mx5m), 2 bed rooms (2.5mx4m) and kitchen.

The construction started on June 2023. During our visit on 22 December, the walls had been raised to the height of the roof and the purlins still had to be put in place for the roofs.

The construction was late because materials such sands, gravels, cements are not available in the village. We had to purchase them from another villages far from the site.

The roof and doors were ordered from Antananarivo which about 700 km far.

The roofs and doors are currently being fitted, but we don't have any photos.



Photo 14 Building

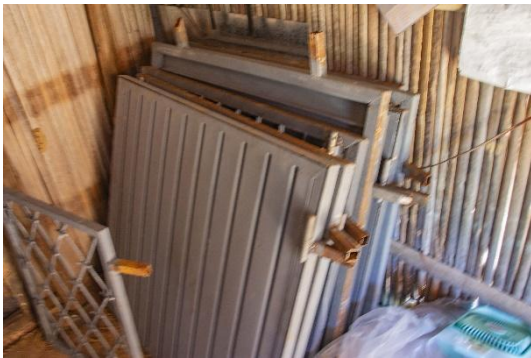


Photo 15 Windows



Photo 16 Roof

7. Any Other Business

a. Children's Christmas

To continue the celebration of Mikajy Natiora's 10th anniversary and to mark Christmas, we organized a children's Christmas in the village of Mahitsihazo on 20/12/2023. The pupils from public school in Mahitsihazo were our target. They were accompanied by their teachers. Each class performed games, poems and dances for the people who came to attend the event. After their performances, we distributed 8 boxes of cakes and 2 bags of sweets to the children.

Children not attending school also had their share. Around 250 children benefited from this Christmas present. They were very happy.



Photo 17 Cookies



Photo 18 Teachers



Photo 19 Kids dancing

The event was attended by the head of village, the director of school and parents. The head of village and the director of school thanked us. According to them, this kind of activity has never been organized in the village and they wanted Mikajy Natiora to continue. It encourages children not only to go to school but also to protect biodiversity.

b. International Primatological Society Congress 2023

The president of the Mikajy Natoria Association received a travel grant from Re:Wild to attend the International Primatological Congress that was held in Kuching, Malaysia in August 2023. Her talk entitled Mikajy Natoria: Outcomes from 10 years for lemur conservation. During the trip she thanked Dr Russell Mittermeier from Re:Wild for their support and she offered him Mikajy Natoria jacket. Madagascar will host the 30th IPS Congress in 2025, a meeting with the Malagasy delegates and the researchers working in Madagascar was held during this congress to discuss the preparation of the IPS 2025.



Photo 20 Russ Mittermeier with Mikajy Natoria's jacket



Photo 21 Malagasy delegates

c. Forest corridor project between the Andilambologno forest and Ambodinambohimarina.

On 09/12/2023, we visited the site to assess the possibility of a corridor between the Andilambologno forest and the mountain Ambodinambohimarina close to the village. There were some good trees around the mountain. Despite the existence of several crops around this mountain, it is quite possible to make a connection between these 2 areas. We even selected some trees that can grow on the site.

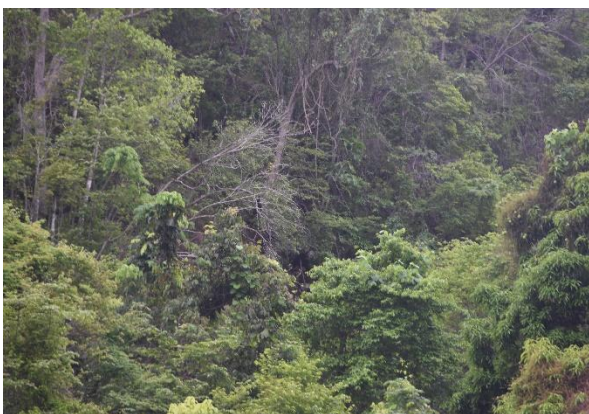


Photo 22 Forest in Ambodinambohimarina



Photo 23 Slash and burn agriculture around the mountain

After the visit, we asked villagers who supposed to have crops there. They said that this land belongs to them and they don't want to plant anything on it. They are afraid that in the future, they will be deprived of this land. There are even rumors circulating that someone has already sold us this mountain. We were not welcomed to the area, our visit to this mountain created tension in the village even we tried to explain that we wanted to reforest and to connect these 2 areas. To avoid any suspicion, we decided not to go ahead with the corridor project.

D. CONCLUSION

Even though human activity in the forest has decreased, we will continue carrying forest patrolling in order to control anthropogenic pressures within the forest.

Lemur survey as well as other species will continue.

The local community has become aware of the need to protect biodiversity and awareness-raising will continue. This makes us close to them.

Assessment of the sacred ibis will continue in Lake Loza and more educational tools will be distributed. It is not possible to establish a corridor between the Andilambologno forest and the Ambodinambohimarina mountain.

Through the implementation of the alternative livelihoods activities, living conditions of the local community in Mahitsihazo village have improved. They can sold chicken or ducks and to buy the school supplies for their children.

The construction of the center is still ongoing. We need more funds to finish it and to equip the center including tables, chairs, benches, solar panels, beds.

Social activity such as Christmas for children will continue.

II. ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2024

Annual activity	Period			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Conservation and community activities				
Forest patrolling				
Health services : monthly patient consultations				
Monitoring of the alternative livelihoods implemented				
Preparation of education materials : calendars, posters, powerpoint presentation				
Education and outreach events : Earth day, World Environmental Day, Lemur Day				
Evaluation of threats of the Madagascar sacred ibis : Questionnaires survey / household or focus group				
Construction of the base research camp				

Running activity and budget	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Tsiory salaries and per diem	1 800 000,00	1 800 000,00	1 800 000,00	1 800 000,00
04 Rangers salaries	1 200 000,00	1 200 000,00	1 200 000,00	1 200 000,00
Travel	7 000 000,00	7 000 000,00	7 000 000,00	7 000 000,00
Food				
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
Construction	10 000 000,00	10 000 000,00		
Total (MGA)	21 050 000,00	21 050 000,00	11 050 000,00	11 050 000,00
Total (Euro)	4223.43	4223.43	2217.05	2217.05