

IMPACT MADAGASCAR

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sometimes it's hard to be optimistic !

Reading the news every day can be overwhelming. They're so often dominated by headlines of war, cuts to foreign aid, and the ever more pressing threat of climate change and ecological collapse, that it's easy to become convinced that all the prospects for the world's most vulnerable inhabitants are only bleak.

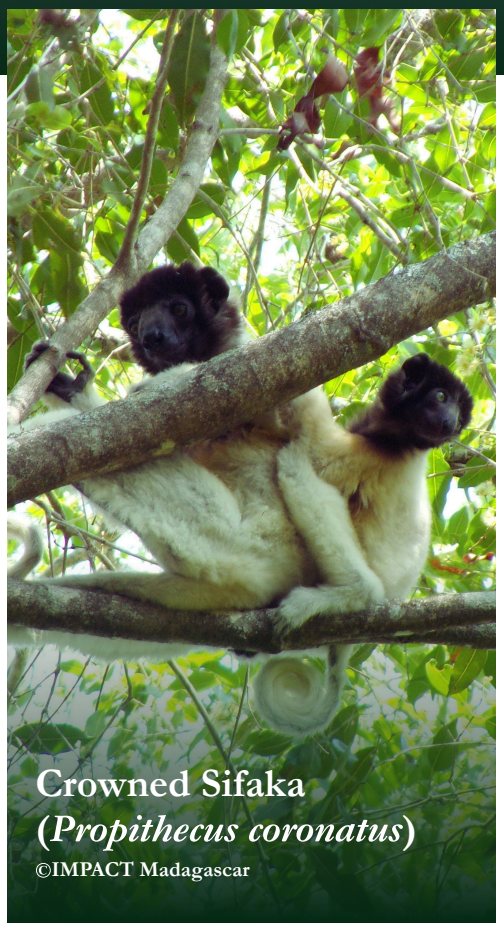
All of these issues are very real crises that we face, and they should rightly be at the forefront of our minds... **Yet we at IMPACT Madagascar still hold firmly to the conviction that there is every reason to have hope for the future, and that is because we see, on a daily basis, how much can be achieved,** and how many seemingly insurmountable problems can be solved, when local communities and the natural world are seen as part of the same solution, not as forces in opposition.

Our island, one of the most biodiverse nations in the world, with one of the very highest rates of endemism, has suffered widespread deforestation.

Combined with dry conditions and rising temperatures, this has put Madagascar at extreme risk of wildfires. And yet in 2025, thanks to our collaboration with the local communities and our use of innovative firebreak methods, we had no fires at all in seven of the nine areas we protect.

Not everything is trending downwards

Despite all the pressures they face, we watched as populations of such critically endangered species as the **crowned sifaka and Madagascar fish eagle grew in numbers in our reserves,** just as we have now successfully translocated ten red-ruffed lemurs from captivity to the forests of Farankaraina. In Ambohijanahary, after we conducted awareness sessions with 935 people, **illegal logging underwent a stunning 73% decrease.**



Crowned Sifaka (*Propithecus coronatus*)
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Nor is it just wildlife that benefits from us showing nature more care: irrigation techniques and the replanting of seedlings helps to make the land not just healthier, but more productive. In Ankihitra last year, 84% more vegetables were grown than in 2024, and revenue from them increased fivefold.

We believe that progress can only be achieved if conservation efforts are not only supported by local communities, but done in support of them. Protecting nature shouldn't limit human prosperity, it should facilitate it. In the last year, **our local communities have enjoyed an average increase of 30% in their household income.** To families struggling below the poverty line, this is far more than just a figure - it is their lives substantially changed.



Rice production

Educate for the future



School reforestation

If we want Madagascar's ecosystems to have a long-term future, it is vital for us to educate the next generation. In Mahajeby we introduced 163 children from the local primary school to waste sorting, and helped them plant 223 saplings themselves. In Iaroka, we served 9,565 canteen meals to 74 children over the course of the school year. We strive to work both for and with the local community in every mission we undertake.

Cyclone Fytia - Relief Response

Cyclone Fitia severely affected the Ankirihitra–Madiromirafy Protected Area Complex in northwestern Madagascar, causing significant damage to communities, agricultural lands, forests, and wildlife. In Ankirihitra, 1,817 trees were reported fallen, around 1,200 people lost their homes, and approximately 50% of agricultural land was flooded. In Madiromirafy, 1,226 trees were affected, 1,100 people lost their homes, and around 50% of agricultural land was damaged. Three primary public schools were destroyed. These impacts highlight the vulnerability of both local communities and ecosystems to severe climatic events.

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House destroyed

In response, IMPACT Madagascar, with the help of our close partners, mobilized relief and recovery support for affected communities. In Ankirihitra, 500 households received donations and local farmers received seeds to restart agricultural production. In Madiromirafy, 785 households received relief donations, the primary schools were repaired, and 600 kg of seeds were distributed to 250 farmers whose crops had been damaged.



The primary school in Anosibe rehabilitated

These interventions aimed to address immediate needs while helping families recover their livelihoods and enabling children to return to school.

The impacts of Cyclone Fytia demonstrate the importance of strengthening climate resilience across the landscape. Continued support for affected households, agricultural recovery, restoration of damaged forests and infrastructure, and regular biodiversity monitoring will be essential to support long-term recovery. Strengthening preparedness and community-based disaster response mechanisms can also help communities and ecosystems better withstand future extreme weather events.

Step for biodiversity conservation

IMPACT Madagascar mobilised with local authorities and communities, helping to repair homes, schools, and health facilities, provide food and emergency shelter to the affected, and restoring agricultural and conservation infrastructure.

In addition, IMPACT Madagascar has now assumed management of the Kasijy Special Reserve, which has been left "orphaned" for decades.

These hectares of gallery, dry forests, and savannah shelter a variety of unique and threatened species - and we look forward to giving them all the help we can.



New Protected Area Madiromirafy-Ankirihitra

Firstly, we have the pleasure to announce that, through a decree by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, that same Madiromirafy-Ankihitra complex was granted a protection status - which means that this 91,819 hectare stretch of dry forests and wetlands is now officially protected, which will be an incalculable help to our work.

These incredibly exciting developments were made possible by the dedication of our team and the unwavering support of local communities, whose livelihoods will be supported through sustainable resource management.

As the small but precious slice of Madagascar that we have the privilege to help look after grows, we will continue to pursue our work, driven by the same resolute principles that we have applied to all our missions.

To everyone who has stood with us: thank you. Your generosity, encouragement, and your help in raising awareness to our cause has been invaluable.

We will end this mid-year newsletter by offering you some recent stories that we think strike a different note, that we see as inspirational proof of the genuine life-changing impact that community-focused conservation work is capable of having.

The people of Ankirihitra and Madiromirafy showed remarkable resilience and determination in dealing with the crisis, but recovery efforts are still ongoing. Though this was a difficult time, the year has since served us two pieces of much more hopeful news.

A Special Zebu, Meet IMPACT

Life as a farmer in Mahajeby can be difficult and uncertain, but thanks to help from IMPACT Madagascar's market gardening support programme, one managed to improve his harvests enough for him to afford a zebu, a symbol of wealth in the community. He kindly named it after us in thanks, and it has since calved.



Zebu named IMPACT

A Forest Saved



Dabolava forest

In Dabolava, the Amboloando forest is important not only for the biodiversity it harbours, and its growing population of crowned sifakas, but is also vital for livelihoods in the local village. They joined the VOI (Village Initiative) to help watch over, patrol, and observe the habitat, and when savanna fires threatened it, the community mobilised.

"One resident testified: *"Thank you to IMPACT Madagascar for coming to help us protect this forest. Without you, it would have disappeared long ago, and we might have had to leave our native village."*



VOI members in Dabolava

Coming up...

Wildlife Ranger Challenge 2026 !

On 19 September 2026, IMPACT Madagascar will once again take part in Tusk's annual Wildlife Ranger Challenge, a continent-wide event celebrating the courage, endurance, and dedication of Africa's wildlife rangers.

Each team will compete in a 21-kilometre race while carrying a 22-kilogram backpack. IMPACT Madagascar has participated in all six previous editions, represented by Team Fossa and Team Sifaka, and has even placed in the top ten.

It is a day of great fun, challenge, and celebration, but also a chance to give our rangers and community forest guards the vital support they need. They are our ecosystems' front line of defence, tirelessly patrolling them day and night, protecting them from illegal logging, bushfires, and habitat degradation, while also strengthening the link between conservation and local communities.

This year, donations to IMPACT Madagascar's Wildlife Ranger Challenge campaign will be matched by the Scheinberg Relief Fund, meaning every contribution will go twice as far.



Team Sifaka and Fosa, for the WRC 2026

Join us in speaking up #ForWildlifeRangers, or find out more at wildliferangerchallenge.org.

Every donation is a concrete act for life. Preserve today for tomorrow.

Support IMPACT Madagascar in protecting endangered species.

Tusk

WILDLIFE RANGER CHALLENGE