

2016 Annual Report

MADIROMIRAFY SITE, SPONSORED BY

The natural habitat of Madiromirafy is characterized by its rich diversity of ecosystems, namely wetlands, lakes and rivers, the Mandrava gallery forest and the wooded savannahs of western Madagascar. This habitat is particularly exceptional due to the presence of endemic or often threatened species such as lemur species *Propithecus coronatus* (EN) and *Eulemur rufus* (VU), and the bird species *Haliaeetus vociferoides* (CR), *Lophotibis cristata* (TN), and *Adasonia sp*. Due to the exceptional value of the Mandrava gallery forest, preserving the habitat for a sustainable use of local communities constitute our mission. To prevent disturbances, biodiversity loss and changes to the habitat structure, the Sifaka Conservation Project conducted threats surveys and ecological studies of *P. coronatus* in the Mandrava gallery forest. In order to involve local populations in protecting natural resources, a program of Natural Resource Management Transfer was launched, the objective of which is to decentralize natural resource management through "management transfer". The goal of the programme is habitat conservation as well as improving the living conditions of local communities. Difficulties were encountered during the establishment of the natural resource management transfer. Mediation meetings were organized with local authorities, regulatory institutions and elders to resolve the conflicts of municipalities.





Men, elders and local authorities are part of the local conservation committee within the local management transfer programme

Awareness-raising meeting with Technical services from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Local authorities, elders and local people: The local communities are ready and very supportive about the Natural Resources Management Transfer

- ➔ Local people will be directly involved in the management of natural resources with the Sifaka Conservation Project.
- ➔ Creation of the Local management committee called VOI (Vondron'Olona Ifotony, in Malagasy): election of the board directors
- ➔ The VOI is called AINA – which means LIFE
- ➔ The established structure is approved by the Regional directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Forest.



Awareness-raising about local people taking the responsibility of managing their natural resources

4,365 HA OF FOREST RESOURCES AND WETLANDS are now officially protected and managed by the local communities in close collaboration with Sifaka Conservation Project.

Board members of the VOI **AINA** – means **LIFE,** inspiring their name from the life that they receive from the Natural resources : forests, wetlands, savannah, lakes and rivers.



Empowering local communities in managing the natural resources:

- ➔ Buidling capacities of the VOI members:
  - o How to manage an association
  - o Simplified accounting training
  - o Conflict management training
  - o Forestry legislation

Investigating the area of intervention

- ➔ Understanding the cultural and socio-economy of the local communities to help establishing the sustainable development programme
- ➔ Assessing the local use of Natural resources, as well as the local needs for products

Delineation of the community reserve: zoning, claryfing the specifications of the zones:

- ➔ Assessing the Land use
- ➔ Mapping
- ➔ Zones include: Conservation zone, restoration zone, agricultural zone, Fishing zone, fish pond zone, ecotourism zone, Dense forests, Thin forests
- ➔ All zones are subject to monitoring in order to achieve sustainable use of natural resources.







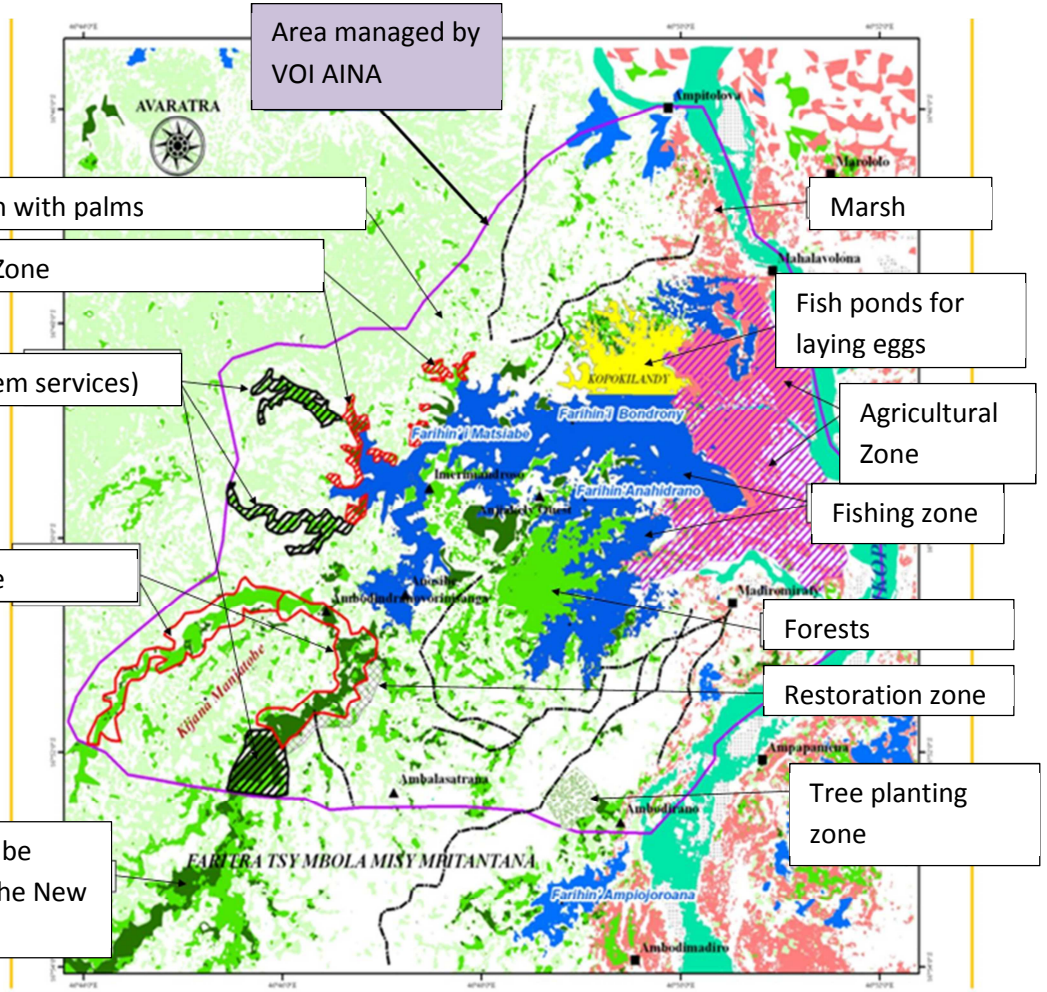
Engaging local people to take responsibilities in managing the natural resources

They are involved in creating the conservation management plan of the site, in establishing the conservation programme and in decision-making.



People are engaged to manage natural resources.

- ➔ A Management contract has been made and signed officially
- ➔ A Scope of Work and an action plan have been established
- ➔ Local Laws called "DINA" has been established in order to reduce threats in the area



Maintaining the quality of the habitat for Crowned Sifaka:

- ➔ Continuous monitoring the habitat, and the threats
- ➔ Seasonal survey the crowned sifaka population
- ➔ Train local patrols to continue the monitoring



River and the gallery forests in Mandrava, Madiromirafy



Camp of the team in Mandrava, Madiromirafy.

Perspectives in 2017:

Sifaka Conservation aims to (i) improve the livelihoods of local people in order to maintain the quality of habitat and the natural resources, (ii) commence the process of creating a New Protected Area with the Ministry of Forest and Environment, (iii) Continue the tree nursery programme, (iv) implement environmental education in schools and local communities



The abundance of crowned sifaka in Madiromirafy is 452 ind/km – The site is one of the remaining habitat where the species is in high abundance.

Recorded threats: Charcoal stoves, bush fires, illegal cutting.



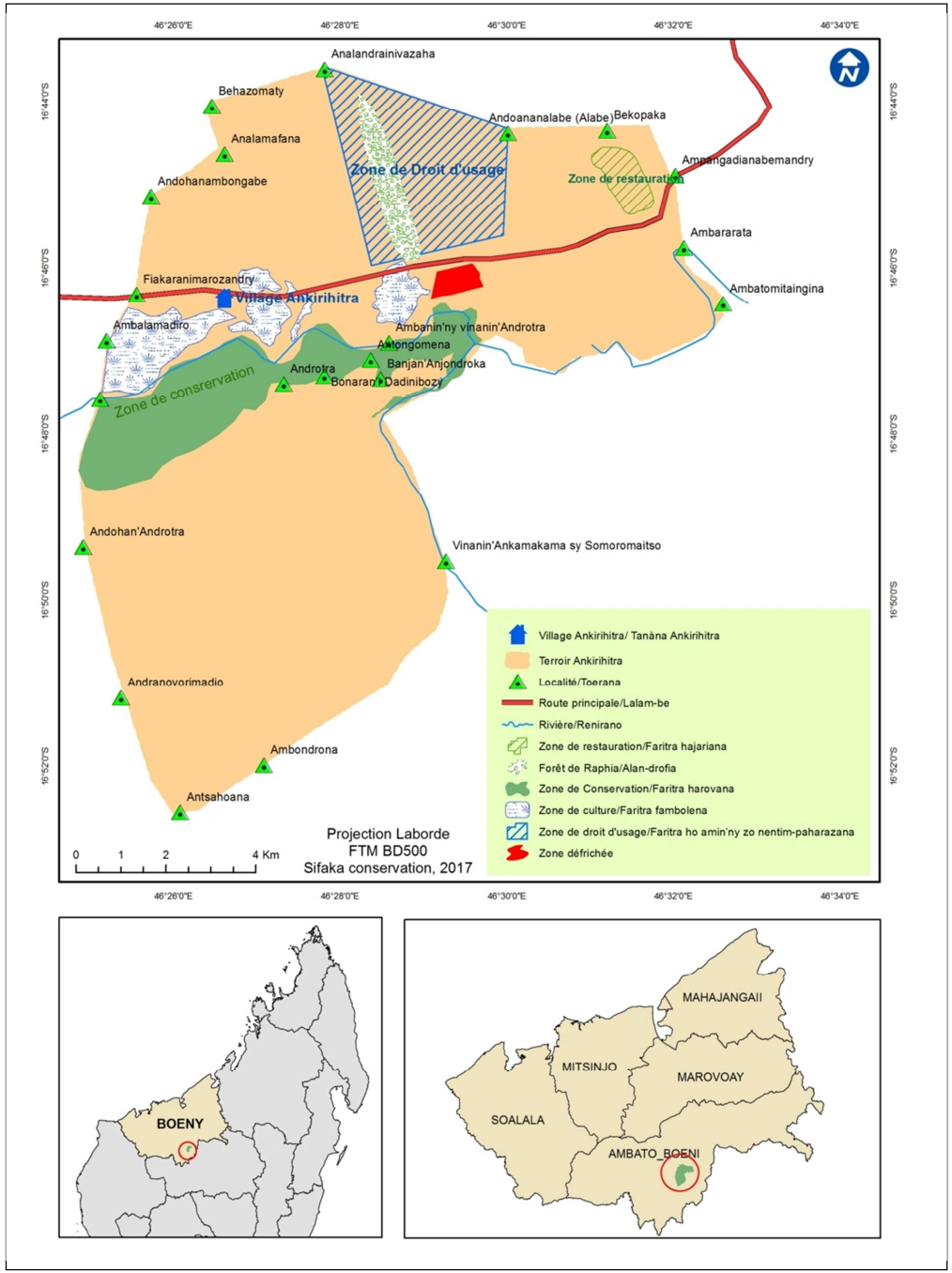
ANKIRIHITRA SITE, SPONSORED BY

PARC ZOOLOGIQUE DE PARIS
une nouvelle espèce de zoo

MUSEUM NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

In 2016, The Sifaka Conservation Project team were focused on the establishment of the natural resources management transfer in order to make the local population responsible for the rational and sustainable use of the natural resources existing in their localities. The main objective of the management transfer processes is to reach an agreement between the different users and the managers of these resources, which is translated into a contract in order to put in place a sustainable management of the forest resources. The lack of control from the government, the lack of law application would have been resolved with the management transfer programme. Sifaka Conservation has (i) strengthened the collaboration with the Boeny Forestry Directorate and with various regional authorities, which constitutes a key of the success in the area; (ii) participated in various environmental events to raise awareness of the presence of crowned sifaka and its habitat in the region.

In 2017, Sifaka Conservation aims to: (a) formalize the Ankirihitra natural resource management transfer; (B) launch the alternative livelihoods project; (c) continue the monitoring of lemurs and their habitats; (D) initiate the New Protected Area process to provide Ankirihitra with a temporary protected area status.



Continue the process of the management transfer with the Local Conservation association called VOI VOAVONJY – literally means SAVED, name inspired from their hope and faith, that the conservation programme would save the natural resources for the future generations, through the application of the principle of sustainable use.

- ➔ Board members were renewed
- ➔ The Scope of work and the management plan were established

Stay in tune with local and regional stakeholders to ensure success of the conservation programme:

- ➔ A collaboration agreement between Sifaka Conservation and the Regional representative of the Ministry of Forest and Environment was signed
- ➔ Sharing Activity reports to stakeholders
- ➔ Participating in the Environment regional coordination meetings to coordinate the Sifaka conservation efforts with the regional initiatives.





Elected board members of the VOI VOAVONJY

Local people are hoping that the conservation programme would bring development to their communities, as well as sustainable use of natural resources for their future







Mapping of the area with local people, local authorities and VOI VOAVONJY

Empowering people in managing their natural resources:

- ➔ VOI VOAVONJY and the local people are involved in the preparation of the management plan,
- ➔ Delineation of the different zones:
  - o Conservation zone
  - o Savannah area
  - o Collection zone (right-of –use; ecosystem services)
  - o Restoration zone
  - o Agricultural zone

Participation in the regional celebration of the World Environment Day



3,000 HA OF FOREST RESOURCES are now officially protected and managed by the local communities in close collaboration with Sifaka Conservation Project.

Monitoring the habitat, the crowned Sifaka and the mongoose lemurs

- ➔ there is an increase of 15% of the sifaka population in the project site,
- ➔ The population density varies from 197 to 320 ind/km^2, compared to the actual population density of the species within the area of Antrema and Mahavavy Kinkony New Protected Areas - 49 to 309 ind./km^2 (Salmona *et al.* 2013).
- ➔ Monitoring data between 2013 to 2016 show the presence of hunting and deforestation from time to time.

This information shows the need to strengthen the conservation programme onsite, by establishing a robust structure such as the new protected area, and by improving the livelihoods of local people to ensure sustainable use of natural resources. More survey and inventory of lemurs, birds and Cheiroptera will be conducted in Ankirihitra in 2017.













DABOLAVA SITE, SPONSORED BY

2016 was a successful year for the Sifaka Conservation. The renewal of the local conservation committee of the management transfer was implemented. The management transfer was also celebrated officially. The team was able to maintain the 3 groups of crowned sifaka within the reserve. An increase of 3 Ha of the surface area resulted from the tree planting and reforestation programme of the year.



Permanent local agents, ensuring the patrols and monitoring of the habitat, the preparation of the tree nursery and the survey of the crowned sifaka

A series of Campaign awareness sessions were conducted to maintain the engagement of local people in supporting the conservation programme







More than 400 adult persons attended the tree planting sessions aiming to restore the Amboloando forest

The school also participated in the tree planting activity

- ➔ **During 3 days of tree planting campaign: 3,000 trees were planted to restore 3 Ha**
- ➔ **The local patrols continued to plant the remaining saplings produced from the tree nursery (10,000 saplings)**

Production of rocket stoves to reduce the use of wood and to help people in saving money from Charcoal consumption:

- ➔ In collaboration with AROVELONA Association, a storage hangar for created rocket stoves has been installed.
- ➔ The VOI members were trained 10 to 15 rocket stoves are sold monthly in Dabolava
- ➔ Posters were created to inform people how beneficial for their health and for the environment is the use of the rocket stoves



Renewing the firewall around Amboloando forests in order to prevent the introduction of fire in the forest and in the tree nursery zone:

- ➔ Two bands of firewalls have been established around Amboloando forests



Monitoring the habitat and the groups of crowned sifaka:

- ➔ Threat survey
- ➔ Daily group survey: 1 infant born from Mboty in June 2016





Participating at the World Environment Day celebration in Dabolava

Offical Ceremony of the local management transfer following the renewal of the local conservation committee (VOI)







The VOI members say "**YES TO SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION**".
They are engaged to support conservation activities.

Production of 10,000 saplings per year from the tree nursery





3-months old saplings

Promoting sustainable development: livelihoods alternatives to local people



3-4 months old crops

Perspectives in 2017:

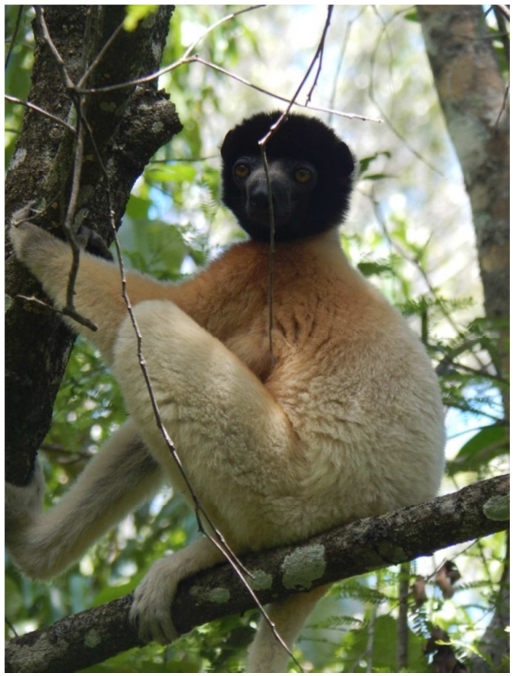
Sifaka Conservation aims to (i) continue monitoring the crowned sifaka groups in Dabolava, (ii) increase the production of saplings in the tree nursery to include fast growing tree species, (iii) improve the livelihoods of local people in order to maintain the quality of habitat and the natural resources, (iv) implement environmental education in schools and local communities.

MAHAJEBY SITE, SPONSORED BY:

Mahajeby site received funding to restart the conservation actions onsite. It constitutes of 4 forest fragments of 1,000 Ha of surface.

Achievements in 2016 include:

- ➔ Re-initiating the establishment of local conservation committee which will be in charge of the local managemen transfer
- ➔ Training of the new members of the VOI





Local people are committed to conservation. They say "**YES**" to Conservation and development.

➔ Monitoring of the crowned sifaka groups and the threats in the area

- 22 groups were monitored regularly from the 4 fragments
- Main threats were recorded in abundance:
  - Pasturing, charcoal production and wood cutting





Perspectives for 2017:

Establishing a permanent monitoring programme with trained local agents, as well as doing a full inventory of the Mahajeby forests are among the activities for 2017. Sifaka Conservation will continue the implementation of the local management transfer alongside the training of the local committee (VOI) and the official ceremony. Improving the livelihoods of local people and introducing the practical conservation education are also scheduled as part of the objetives of the year.





We are also thankful to the other partners of SIFAKA CONSERVATION

And the great team we have!!!



Ando Rakotoarisoa, MSc, Site Manager



Rado Rakotondrabe, MSc, Assistant Project Coordinator



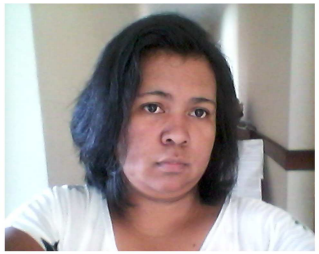
Toky Rakotoarinivo, MSc, Site Manager



Sitraka Ratsaralaza, MSc, Ecological Restoration Officer



Dinah Rakotonaivo, Driver



Josia Razafindramanana, PhD, Project Coordinator