

Final narrative report



UNESCO Regional Office
for Eastern Africa



Emergency plan for the Rainforests of the Atsinanana, World Heritage Property



FINAL REPORT

September 2016

Final narrative report

Comments and visa by the Director of the Field Office:

A satisfactory project implemented
as described in the report with
good visibility of the work of
UNESCO in this sphere.
Well done
[Signature]

Project Title: Emergency Assistance to the Rainforests of the Atsinanana World Heritage property

Target Country or Region: Madagascar (Africa region)

UNESCO Budget code and donor Reference if appropriate: 504MAG4000

Funding source: Government of Norway

Total Budget approved: USD 1 031 814

Reporting period: July 2014 – September 2016

Executing Agency: UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

Implementing partners: WCS- Tany Meva Foundation – FAPBM

Project starting date: July 2014

Project completion date: September 2016

Responsible Sector: CULTURE

Name of Person completing Report: Rabemanantsoa Rintsamahefa, Programme Coordinator, UNESCO Antananarivo Antenna

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List of abbreviations

FAPBM: Fondation pour les Aires Protégées et la Biodiversité de Madagascar

LPC: Local Park Committee

NP: National Park

MEEF: Ministry of Environmenet, Ecology and Forests

MNP: Madagascar National Parks

OUV: Outstanding Universal Value

DMP: Development and Management Plan

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

VA: Vaomieran'ny Ala (Forests Committee)

VVS: Vaomieran'ny Vava Saha (Valley Committee)

WCS: Wildlife Conservation Society

WHC: World Heritage Centre

WHP: World Heritage Property



FOREWORD

UNESCO shares the vision of the African Union for “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.” Since 2015, this vision takes form through implementation of the the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including those focusing on quality education, sustainable cities, the environment, economic growth, sustainable consumption and production patterns, peaceful and inclusive societies, gender equality and food security.

No development can be sustainable without including culture. From cultural heritage to creative industries, culture is both an enabler and a driver of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

As the only UN agency with a mandate in the field of culture and through its array of normative and standard setting instruments, UNESCO plays a leading role in supporting countries with the preservation of their natural and cultural World Heritage properties, especially those most endangered.

The Rainforests of the Atsinanana, a serial property comprising six National Parks managed by Madagascar National Parks, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2007 in recognition of its exceptional biodiversity and the high rate of fauna and flora endemism. Due to serious threats to its preservation, such as logging of precious wood, poaching and deforestation, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee inscribed the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2010.

Since then, UNESCO has provided technical assistance to the Malagasy Government for a recovery plan, and mobilized the Government of Norway, through NORAD, to grant USD 1 031 814 USD for the project “Emergency Plan for the Rainforests of the Atsinanana”.

The main objective of this project, which was carried-out from 2014-2016, was to restore the World Heritage values property and to remove threats to two of its National Parks, Marojejy and Masoala, in order to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. This report highlights the key activities and achievements of this project.

I would like to take this opportunity to express UNESCO’s gratitude towards the Government of Norway, to the Malagasy Government as well as to local stakeholders and partners for their engagement and collaboration, which contributed to the achievements of this project.

Despite the progress made through this project, there is still a lot of work to be done to remove the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Nevertheless, this project has raised considerable awareness among the local communities and national stakeholders of the fragility of the Rainforests of the Atinsinana and the value of preserving it for future generations. Moreover, it provides the impetus for continued collaboration in the sustainable development and preservation of this unique and irreplaceable World Heritage property.


Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta
Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

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I. Summary and Background

The serial property Rainforests of the Atsinanana was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2007 during the 31st Session of the World Heritage Committee (31COM 8B.9). It is composed of a set of six national Parks meeting the criteria (ix) and (x) with its exceptional biodiversity and the high rate of fauna and flora endemism.

The property was inscribed on the UNESCO *List of World Heritage in Danger* in 2010 during the 34th Session of the World Heritage Committee (34COM 7B.2) due to illegal logging of precious wood (ebony and rosewood), deforestation and poaching of lemurs, which affected its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

Despite the emergency assistance of the World Heritage Committee through a USD 100 000 grant in International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund in 2010, illegal activities have not stopped within the property. Around two million hectares of natural forests were destroyed out of which 60% were located in the Rainforests of the Atsinanana World Heritage property (WHP). The National Parks of Masoala and Marojejy were the most affected by these issues.

In 2011, the Malagasy Government, in collaboration with the World Heritage Center developed a project proposal based on the results and recommendations of the joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Reactive Monitoring Mission carried-out to the property in May 2011. The Government of Norway granted USD 1,031 814 to support the projet entitled "Emergency Assistance to the Rainforests of the Atsinanana World Heritage property." It was officially launched in May 2014 for a two-year period, and subsequently granted an extension until September 2016.

The main objective of the project was to create the appropriate conditions to remove the property from the *List of World Heritage in Danger*. The specific objective was to restore the property's Outstanding Universal Value, especially the integrity of its two most affected Parks (Masoala and Marojejy), compared to the reference level in 2008.

The four main expected results of the project were:

1. The pressures of logging of precious wood and deforestation in the two parks are brought under permanent control;
2. A system of ecological monitoring of the OUV attributes is operational and contributes directly to their long-term conservation;
3. Neighbouring communities are actively involved in the protection of the WHP;
4. The state of conservation of the property is closely monitored by the WHC

The project activities included strengthening monitoring of the WHP through capacity building of patrol agents in the Law Enforcement Monitoring (LEM) /SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) and providing technical equipment. The project also aimed at increasing community involvement in the property management and preservation through their participation in the surveillance of the parks.

UNESCO contracted three strategic partners to implement the project activities:

- 1) Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS),

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- 2) Tany Meva Foundation and
- 3) the *Fondation pour les Aires Protégées et la Biodiversité de Madagascar* (FAPBM).

FAPBM was assisted by three additional implementation partners:

- 1) the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MEEF),
- 2) Madagascar National Parks (MNP), which manages all the six National Parks of the WHP, and
- 3) the association VAHATRA, which is composed of scientific researchers.

UNESCO signed formal contracts with the three strategic partners with budgets established according to the activities they were responsible for carrying-out; WCS: 181 732 USD ; Tany Meva Foundation: 173 000 USD; and FAPBM: 284 899 82 USD.

All activities ended in August 2016 and an external evaluation was undertaken by a team of consultants from 1 August to 30 September 2016. The external evaluation report is included as an annex to this report.

The present document is the final narrative report on the activities carried-out and on the results obtained at the end of the project.

SUMMARY TABLE

| Expected Results | Main objectives | Achievements | Challenges |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>1. The pressures of logging of precious wood and deforestation in the two parks are brought under permanent control</p> | <p>Establish a permanent control on the logging of precious wood and deforestation in the two parks</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15.5% reduction in logging from 2014-2016 ▪ Reduction of 33,96% of area of deforestation, which is still maintained under the 0,01% rate recommended by the World Heritage Committee ▪ Increase in size of controlled area within Masoala and Marojejy National Parks | <p>Non application of sanctions and law on on offenders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The absence of sworn officers within MNP to report crimes ▪ Continuity of illegal logging of precious woods in the park. ▪ Inadequate human, material and financial resources of Madagascar National Parks to face pressures. |
| <p>2. A system of ecological monitoring of the OUV attributes is operational and contributes directly to their long-term conservation</p> | <p>Ensure the long-term conservation of the property through an operational system of ecological monitoring of its OUV.</p> | <p>Endangered species habitats identified and listed on IUCN List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MNP Monitoring Manual updated to international standards ▪ Reference document on biological inventory for Masoala and Marojejy Parks produced. | <p>Ensuring sustainability of long-term conservation</p> |
| <p>3. Neighbouring communities are actively involved in the protection of the WHP</p> | <p>Involve local communities in the protection of the property</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The community is actively involved in the surveillance and monitoring of the parks through Local Park Committees ▪ Active and increased contribution of community in reducing pressures on the forests through income-generating micro-projects. ▪ Increased community awareness on conservation and stronger cooperation with local authorities. | <p>Inadequate support and ongoing coaching for income generating activities among communities to reduce pressures perennially</p> |
| <p>4. The state of conservation of the property is closely monitored by the WHC</p> | <p>Keep the WHC informed about the project progress</p> | <p>Reactive Monitoring Mission to the property in 2015</p> | <p>-</p> |

II. Description of project implementation

II.1 Activities undertaken and main achievements

It is important to first note that the National Park of Masoala received funding from the World Bank within the frame of the Environmental Programme (PE 3), for quite similar conservation objectives. Therefore, some the activities foreseen at both Masoala and Marojejy National Parks were only carried-out at Marojejy National Park.

The following activities were successfully carried-out from December 2014 to August 2016:

Activities:

- (i) Support for a transparent process to liquidate precious wood stockpiles.
- (ii) Strengthening of surveillance of the sites in order to halt illegal woodcutting.
- (iii) Establishment of an effective LEM/SMART tool technology.
- (iv) A complete biological inventorying of Masoala and Marojejy National Parks.
- (v) Production of a guide to the Outstanding Universal Value attributes of Masoala and Marojejy.
- (vi) The ecological monitoring programme fine-tuned and implemented.
- (vii) Information and public awareness campaigns among the local communities.
- (viii) Local communities involved in the ecological monitoring so as to reduce pressures on the forests.
- (ix) The property's state of conservation closely monitored by the World Heritage Center.

II.2 Activities implemented by the three partners

| | Tany Meva Foundation | WCS | FAPBM |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Contract Status and period | Contract signed in June 2014 Period of activities: July 2014-June 2016 USD 173 000. | Contract signed in July 2014 Period of activities: July 2014-June 2016 USD181 732 | Contract signed in April 2015 Period of activities: May 2015-August 2016 USD 284 899 82 |
| Budget | | | |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake information and public awareness campaigns towards the local communities Involve local communities in the ecological monitoring so as to reduce pressures on the forests; | <p>Establish, implement, monitor and assess an effective Law Enforcement Monitoring (LEM) through "SMART" technologies</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen surveillance in the sites in order to halt illegal woodcutting Undertake a complete biological inventory of Masoala and Marojejy National Parks; Produce a guide to the Outstanding Universal Value attributes of the 2 Parks; Fine-tune and implement the ecological monitoring programme; |
| Sub-activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the Communities' environmental awareness Production of communication tools Involve local communities to reduce pressures on the forests Identification of community development needs Community coaching on micro-projects Elaboration of Development and Management Plans (DMP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing national consultation Workshop on using SMART Capacity building on SMART towards MNP focal points Training of Park agents Training of Local Park Committees (LPC) on Participatory Monitoring Monitoring and Assessment of LEM/SMART use in the field National workshop on the use of LEM/SMART Development of the SMART model for the Eastern Rainforests/WHP National workshop to validate the SMART model | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce surveillance equipment Intensification of surveillance patrol missions and mixed brigades Support and capacity building of LPC Installation of park boundary signs Realization of biological inventory preceded by reconnaissance missions Training local staff and LPC on OUV assets Production of a guide on OUV Fine-tune ecological monitoring protocol Mobilise systematic ecological monitoring missions |

II.1.1. Support a transparent process for liquidation of precious wood stockpiles

This activity was foreseen to support actions designed to monitor the transparency of the liquidation of precious wood stockpiles, particularly with regards to the World Heritage property and surrounding communities. An independent observer was to be appointed to conduct enquiries during the project period in order to prevent any attempts to relaunch logging of precious wood in the WHP. However, this activity was not implemented for the following reasons:

During the same period of project implementation, the World Bank supported similar activities. Therefore, in order to avoid duplication, it was decided to wait for the recommendations of Reactive Monitoring Mission jointly carried-out by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN from 28 September- 02 October 2015. This mission recommended focusing more on other key activities, such as the sustainable empowerment of MNP local staff and the Ministry of Environment and Forests as well as on the promotion of community economic activities, rather than on the transparency of the liquidation process (*F. Hawkins and E. Moukala, UNESCO-IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission Report, October 2015*)

Meanwhile, the project budget had to be revised due to changes in the exchange rate and final reduced amount received from the donor. As a result, some activities of the project had to be cancelled. At the same time, another project funded by USAID and implemented by Conservation International (SCAPES Project) aimed to focus on the transparency of the liquidation process. The Government had also taken the responsibility for developing an Action Plan for the fight against rosewood logging. As a result, this field activity became too complex and was associated with political interests. Therefore, UNESCO Regional Office decided not to implement this activity as originally foreseen in the project document.

II.1.2. Strengthening the surveillance of the sites in order to halt illegal woodcutting

All of the six National Parks that compose the Rainforests of the Atsinanana are managed by Madagascar National Park (MNP), a national association within the Ministry of Environment.

MNP developed a co-management policy in 2012, which involves local communities in the preservation of the parks. They were organized within a structure called "Local Park Community" (LPC) whose members are volunteers from surrounding villages who are temporarily paid for their work related to park's protection. The project enabled this policy to be implemented in Masoala and Marojejy NP since 2014 by associating LPC in surveillance missions.

This activity was developed to resolve the issue of park surveillance in the two most affected parks: Masoala and Marojejy. The strategy adopted was to empower surveillance mechanism by intensifying patrols and equipment, building staff capacity, involving communities and making sites' boundaries visible.

The implementation was carried-out by FAPBM from May 2015 to January 2016, in collaboration with Madagascar National Parks (MNP) and the Ministry of Environment,

Ecology, Ecology and Forests (MEEF). Formal agreements were signed between them.

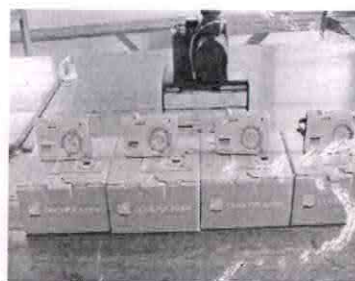
It consisted of the following two main sub-activities:

i. Reinforce surveillance equipments

One of the needs identified was the lack of technical equipment to lead surveillance patrols for the parks of Masoala and Marojejy. Surveillance patrols were composed of MNP park agents and LPC. In the framework of the project, equipment and technical tools were procured for MNP.

List of equipment purchased and given to MNP

| Masoala National Park | Marojejy National Park |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01 motorcycle | 03 motorcycles |
| 02 bikes | 02 bikes |
| 01 GPS | 01 GPS |
| 01 tent | 01 tent |
| 01 mobile phone | 09 mobile phones |
| 01 professional camera | 01 digital camera |
| | 04 professional cameras |



ii. Intensification of surveillance patrol missions and mixed brigades

This activity was primarily carried-out in Marojejy NP since Masoala NP was benefitting from the World Bank funding for the same activity.

The objective was to have more efficient patrols of the park in order to stop logging of precious wood, deforestation and poaching. The project increased the number of surveillance missions in the two parks and the number of LPC involved.

According to the Malagasy legislation, MNP staff are not mandated to act on illegal activities. Therefore, the strategy adopted was to associate all key-actors in the patrols in mixed brigades: the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Regional Directorate of Forests, the National Gendarmerie and Police.

These mixed patrols made systematic control visits throughout the parks in order to track and dissuade traffickers, and issue reports to the court.

Number of missions undertaken

| Masoala National Park | Marojejy National Park |
|---|---|
| World Bank funds | 63 patrol missions by Park agents and LPC |
| 1 mission with DCF, DREEF SAVA, MNP local agents, LCP | 15 missions of mixed brigades |
| World Bank funds | 07 missions undertaken by LPC |



Mixed brigade at Masoala



Mixed brigade at Marojejy

iii. Support and capacity building towards LPC

The project increased the number of LPC identified by MNP within the frame of co-management. They received indemnities from the project according to the number of missions carried-out.

In order to obtain better results, LPC members were also trained by the project on different topics related to the park protection.

Number of LPC trained

| Masoala National Park | Marojejy National Park |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 76 members trained | 103 members trained |



LPC wearing uniform bought by the project



Training of Park Agents and LPC, Marojejy

iv. Installation of boundary signs

This sub-activity was only carried-out in Marojejy National Park since the World Bank funded the same activity for Masoala NP. A total of **252** metal signs were installed along the 76 km limits of the park in order to clearly communicate its boundaries.



Installation of a new sign along the border of Marojejy NP

II.1.3. Establishment of an effective Law Enforcement Monitoring system using 'SMART' technology

The project aimed to improve the effectiveness of Law enforcement monitoring (LEM) through improved monitoring at the local level.

The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) was created by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and was already being effectively used in other protected areas in Madagascar and in other African countries.

In the framework of the project, WCS was mandated to assist MNP central and local staff in learning how to use SMART in the six parks within the World Heritage property.

This activity was undertaken from July 2014 to June 2016 with the following sub-activities:

i. National Consultation Workshop on using SMART

A national workshop was organized from 1st -3rd December 2016 in Antananarivo to define the national strategy for the use of the SMART tool. It was attended by the representatives of the central staff of MNP and the local agents working in the six National Parks (Masoala, Marojejy, Ranomafana, Andringitra, Andoaheha, Zahamena) of the WHP.

During the workshop, MNP local technicians shared their difficulties with MIST Database Management System for Conservation, Protected Areas and Park Management (the tool they were formerly using) and made recommendations that helped to develop the implementation strategy for SMART.



National workshop on LEM/SMART, Antananarivo

ii. Capacity building on SMART for MNP focal points

For a better appropriation of LEM/SMART tool, WCS adopted the strategy of “training of trainers” who were trained to share the acquired knowledge with other staff members. This first training was addressed to the technicians in charge of preservation and research in the six parks. These technicians became the “SMART focal points”.

The trainings were planned to take place after the consultation workshop, but as the pressures on Masoala and Marojejy Parks were increasing, a training was organized at the two parks as well as at Zahamena in July 2014. The second training was held during the National workshop in Antananarivo in December 2014.

The training contained eight technical modules:

1. Establishment of a preservation area within SMART
2. SMART map and its GIS function
3. Patrols
4. Summary and analysis of data
5. Reporting
6. Patrols planning
7. Data model management
8. Use of the “cybertrack” function



Training on SMART,

iii. Training of Park agents

In addition to the LEM/SMART tool, the local agents in the six National Parks covered by the project were trained in patrol conducting techniques called Ranger-based monitoring (RBM). It consisted of building their capacity to collect standardized data while undertaking surveillance missions. The trainings were held in the field to enable the participants have concrete comprehension of RBM, and covered the following training modules:

1. Using GPS
2. Data registration in tracklog
3. Different types of patrols
4. Reporting system for observations made during patrols
5. Data transfert from GPS to SMART
6. Practices

iv. Training of Local Park Committees (LPC) on Participatory Monitoring

In the framework of the co-management policy, the project also focused on the capacity building of LPC members on the use of SMART to enable them undertake surveillance patrols with Park Agents. This activity involved all of the six National Parks within the World Heritage property.

LPC leaders were trained in Participatory monitoring (PBM) which consisted of taking notes and registering GPS points during patrol missions. As most of these community leaders were illiterate and were not used to such technical tools, they could not go out on monitoring missions on their own, but instead were assisted by local parks agents during missions. This proved to be a more effective means of implementation.

v. Monitoring and Assessment of LEM/SMART use in the field

WCS was also mandated to ensure close follow-up and coaching on the use of LEM/SMART in the six National Parks. This activity consisted of assessing the main difficulties encountered by MNP staff and LPC members during missions.

In order to monitor the use of LEM/SMART, the focal points were asked to send a report (according to a predefined Excel format) to MNP central office every three months. These files helped evaluate the use of SMART in the field and to identify issues the local agents had in collecting data and other technical aspects.



On-site training on SMART,
August 2014

vi. National workshop on the use of LEM/SMART

A National workshop was organized in March 2016 to assess the use of the LEM/SMART tool in the six National Parks. It enabled the focal points to share their technical problems and to sit together with WCS to find solutions.

After the workshop, the following resolutions were agreed:

- ✚ Adoption of LEM/SMART by all six National Parks composing the World Heritage property and progressively to the other parks managed by MNP
- ✚ Appointment of SMART focal points within MNP central office
- ✚ Adaptation of MNP monitoring zoning to the SMART system

vii. Development of the SMART model for the Eastern Rainforests WHP

This sub-activity was based on feedback from local focal points and the results of the assessment of SMART during the National workshop.

WCS created a specific SMART model, which meets the needs identified in the field and which considered the specificity of the Rainforests of Madagascar. It was also aligned to the technical system already used by MNP in terms of monitoring zoning.

viii. National workshop to validate the SMART model

A National workshop was held in Antananarivo from 20-22 June 2016 to validate the SMART model specifically developed for the Parks managed by MNP.

The focal points and MNP Central Office agreed to use the SMART model and to have the guiding documents made available on a CD-Rom in French and Malagasy. They added two specifications concerning the GPS manual type Date logger Columbus V-900 and the computer application to facilitate insertion of the OUV species list.

After the modifications, the tools and manual in CD-ROM form were distributed to all the focal points, to MNP Central Office and the UNESCO Antenna in Antananarivo.

Main achievements on LEM/SMART

- * 81 park agents trained in carrying-out patrols according to LEM/SMART data collection
- * 56 LPC leaders capable of assisting park agents in standardized patrols
- * Development of an operational LEM/SMART model specific to MNP managed protected areas
- * Use of LEM/SMART in all the parks managed by MNP
- * Production of a CD-Rom containing a manual and reference documents on the use of SMART in French and Malagasy

II.1.4. Undertake a complete biological inventory of Marojejy and Masoala Parks

The aim of this activity was to monitor the integrity of the species that support the Outstanding Universal Value of the Eastern Rainforests WHP.

It was led by FAPBM in collaboration with the association VAHATRA, which has expertise in different taxonomic groups. A formal agreement was signed between the two parties.

i. Reconnaissance missions at Masoala and Marojejy National Parks

In order to complete the biological inventory, reconnaissance missions were planned with VAHATRA experts. Local communities were also consulted and associated with this activity.

The first one-week mission was organized at Masoala in August 2015. The second mission took place at Marojejy in the beginning of June 2016.

The reconnaissance mission consisted of the following sub-activities:

- ⬇ Identification of the sites where the biological inventories will be conducted ;
- ⬇ Analysis and preliminary survey among the local communities on different risks that may affect carrying-out the inventory (security, pressures, threats...);
- ⬇ Identification of local collaborators who may assist with the inventory mission;
- ⬇ Planning and workplan development for the inventory mission;
- ⬇ Identification of logistics and human resources needed for the inventory mission.

ii. Biological inventories

The principal objective of this activity was to develop an inventory of the species that bear the OUV of Masoala and Marojejy National Parks. This study was undertaken by a multidisciplinary team of botanists and zoologists.

For Masoala, the inventory was carried-out on 4 sites, with a rapid exploration on the fifth identified site in October and December 2015. As for Marojejy, the inventory was carried-out in June 2016. The taxonomic groups concerned were amphibians, reptiles, birds, bats, small mammals, carnivores and primates as well as vascular plants flora.

The inventory covered 3 to 4 km perimeter within the areas that were the most affected by illegal logging of precious wood. The techniques and methods used were the same for all of the sites and were based on the standard methodological approaches used throughout Madagascar.

The results of the inventory on each park were compiled in a study document.

Main achievements

| Masoala National Park | Marojejy National Park |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 01 mission: 05 sites identified | 01 mission: 03 sites identified |
| One document available | One document available |

iii. Training of local staff on the identification of OUV attributes at Marojejy and Masoala National Parks

The local staff were trained during the biological inventory missions. This strategy was adopted to give a better comprehension to the staff on the identification of species that bear the OUV of the parks. The training was practical and theoretical. For the on-site training, MNP agents assisted the experts of VAHATRA while making the inventories and identifying the key species of the parks.

For the theoretical training, the following themes were covered:

- * Malagasy biodiversity through Marojejy and Masoala National Parks
- * Richness and endemicity of fauna and flora
- * Relations between species and habitats
- * Preservation of species
- * Techniques for ecological monitoring and research

The park guides and members of the Local Park Committees were also trained by the researchers.

| Masoala National Park | Marojejy National Park |
|--|--|
| 10 Park agents and LPC leaders trained | 30 Park agents and LPC leaders trained |



Training of park agents and LPC Marojejy, 2016

II.1.5. Produce a guide to the Outstanding Universal Value attributes of the 2 Parks

The results of the biological inventories enabled the production of information brochures to highlight and raise awareness of the Outstanding Universal Value of the parks. They are targeted towards the local park staff and visitors. 350 copies were produced for each park by VAHATRA experts.

The brochures highlight key habitats as well as the list and description of the main fauna and flora species that are endemic or threatened according to IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species.



Information brochures produced for Masoala and Marojejy National Parks, 2016

II.1.6. Fine tune and implement the ecological monitoring program

This activity was also implemented by FAPBM in collaboration with VAHATRA. It consisted of producing the scientific results of inventories and carrying out ecological monitoring missions.

i. Refinement of MNP ecological monitoring protocols

This activity consisted of revising the ecological monitoring manual used by MNP based on the results of the biological inventories made by VAHATRA on the two parks. The objective of ecological monitoring is to assess the evolution or the integrity of the parks in terms of habitats, biodiversity and their ecological functions.

The monitoring was carried-out on two target zones:

- Preservation targets: habitats (forests) and keys species
- 'Forbidden' targets: illegal activities which impacts may affect the integrity of the parks (logging, poaching, clearing...)

ii. Ecological monitoring of Marojejy and Masoala National Parks

In order to strengthen the monitoring of Marojejy and Masoala National Parks, ecological monitoring missions were intensified and conducted regularly. The strategy adopted was to mobilize local communities through the Local Park Committees, to accompany the missions.

The project provided equipment to LPC members (GPS, digital camera, tents, raincoats...) to enable them to undertake ecological monitoring missions alongside MNP patrols.

The monitoring consisted of reporting by GPS all data on the species found during the mission (location, description, state of conservation...).

Main achievements

| Masoala National Park | Marojejy National Park |
|---|--|
| -112 missions carried-out with theLPC -500 plastic pots to restore the forest along 39ha of corridor and of a 4,2ha restoration area | 19 missions carried-out with park agents and LPC |

Equipement provided to MNP and LCP for ecological monitoring

| Masoala National Park | Marojejy National Park |
|--|---|
| Motor with 60CV power Argos 710 repaired (rapid boat) | 02 tents 100 uniforms 100 raincoats 25 GPS 04 computers |

II.1.7. Undertake information and public awareness campaigns for local communities

This activity was implemented by Tany Meva Foundation from June 2014 to June 2016. It consisted of community awareness and education on environment preservation as well as the production of communication tools.

Tany Meva developed a communication plan, which was validated by UNESCO in 2014. It was developed in collaboration with MNP local agents at Marojejy and Masoala National Parks, and the local agents. Tany Meva also engaged two local agents to undertake the awareness-raising and educational activities.

The local communities were organized in three groups: LPC (Local Park Committee), Vaomieran'ny Ala –VA (Forest Committee) and Vaomieran'ny Vava Saha –VVS (Valley Committee). Seven other community associations were created in the framework of the project for the development and implementation of community micro-projects.

i. Increasing the Communities' environmental awareness

This sub-activity was carried-out at the local level in consultation with traditional leaders. 28 community areas were covered by the activity. The targeted audience were men, women and youth who were members of the three groupings: LPC, VA, VVS, associations and especially the traditional leaders and the elders who could transmit in their turn to the younger generations.

The sessions were organized as community meeting during which the Tany Meva agents raised awareness of participants on different themes related to the conservation of the parks. Debates were organized on different themes to increase awareness of the issues and foster greater engagement. Home visits were also carried-out as part of the awareness-raising activities, and these proved to be very effective.

The strategy used was to engage the traditional leaders and the elders who have great influence over the communities, so that they could be the ones transmitting the messages to their communities. Themes discussed in the sessions included:

- ✚ Roles and responsibilities of opinion leaders;
- ✚ Governmental and private forests;
- ✚ Withdrawals in forests, clearing and wildfires;
- ✚ Prohibitions and sanctions set out by the legislation and forestry rules;
- ✚ Logging of precious wood;
- ✚ Monitoring rules.

ii. Production of communication tools

Communication tools were produced to reinforce community awareness-raising efforts. They were written in Malagasy and were distributed during information sessions or displayed in public areas and schools. One of the main tools distributed was a summary of laws and rules on natural resources entitled “*Lalana mifehy ny zavaboary*”.

Types of communication tools produced included: flyers, posters, booklets

| Masoala National Park | | Marojejy National Park | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| ★ | 9 community districts reached | ★ | 19 community districts reached |
| ★ | 2 289 persons sensitized (811 women) | ★ | 5 186 persons sensitized (1 857 women) |
| ★ | 53% overall inhabitants | ★ | 38% overall inhabitants |
| ★ | 1 250 leaflets distributed | ★ | 1 250 leaflets distributed |



Community sensitization meeting, 2015

II.1.8. Involvement of local communities to reduce pressures on the forests

This activity was undertaken by Tany Meva Foundation from July 2014 to June 2016. It focused on identifying the development needs of the communities, developing projects, and mobilizing funds to prevent the practice of logging of precious wood from the WHP.

The objective was to reinforce the economic activity of the populations in order to avoid their implication in illegal activities.

Tany Meva hired two coaches to accompany communities in identifying their development needs and help them develop micro-projects.

The coaches were provided with the following equipment:

| Masoala National Park | Marojejy National Park |
|--|------------------------|
| Equipment for the 2 coaches from Tany Meva | |
| 01 motorcycle | 01 motorcycle |
| 01 GPS | 01 GPS |
| 01 digital camera | 01 digital camera |
| 01 laptop | 01 laptop |
| 01 printer | 01 printer |

iii. Identification of community development needs and elaboration of Development and Management Plans (DMP)

Tany Meva local agents and the UNESCO project coordinator undertook surveys within the 7 rural Communes around Marojejy and Masoala National Parks in 2014. The surveys were used to produce a report on the current economic activities and possible alternatives to improve livelihoods.

The results of the surveys were used to develop documents for fund mobilization in view of the development of the community lands (Development and Management Plans) or DMP. They contained the vision and needs of local communities in managing their natural resources in a sustainable manner.

The DMPS were validated by all of the local stakeholders: local authorities and communities, NGOs and associations working in the field of environment. The final DMP documents were transmitted to the communities and UNESCO.

About 40 DMP were developed in the frame of the project and submitted to Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) in January 2015. However, only 28 projects were approved by GEF Steering Committee as they met their selection criteria. 9 among these projects are on communities surrounding Masoala Park and 19 for those at Marojejy. The total amount of all the approved projects is USD 288 000.

As the micro-project areas are located in remote and isolated regions, GEF requested that the projects were grouped into communal ones for the funding in order to facilitate follow-up.

Main achievements

| Masoala National Park | Marojejy National Park |
|---|---|
| 09 DMP (Development and Management Plans) elaborated and approved | 19 DMP (Development and Management Plans) elaborated and approved |
| 01 grouped project accepted and funded by GEF/SGP (composed of 09 micro-projects for the 09 community terroirs) | 06 group projects accepted and funded by GEF/SGP (composed of 19 micro-projects for the 19 community districts) |

iv. Community coaching on micro-projects

Tany Meva was also mandated to assist communities in the implementation of the GEF/SGP funded projects through capacity building activities.

The project participants were organized into associations. Trainings sessions were offered to the associations according to the following themes:

- Coordination and management of group associations
- Project and finance management
- Management of equipment and logistics

Main achievements

| Masoala National Park | Marojejy National Park |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Training on management and finance for project owners | |
| 26 (15 men-11 women) trained | 155 (122 men -33 women) trained |



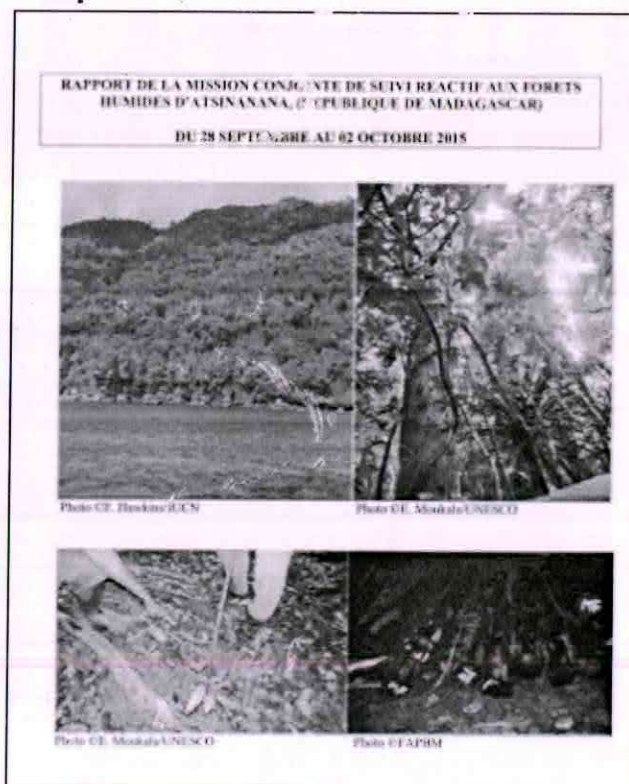
Owner of micro-project, Ambohitralalana, Masoala, 2015

II.1.9. Ensure closer monitoring of the project implementation by the World Heritage Centre

This activity was directly managed by the Africa Unit of the World Heritage Center at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The project allowed for greater means of reporting to the World Heritage Centre through the various activities, which enabled the Centre to increase communications with the various stakeholders and monitor the site more closely. In addition, a UNESCO-IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission was carried-out to the World Heritage property in 2015 in order to review the state of conservation of the property in view of its eventual removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger. This mission also enabled the new Chief of the Africa Unit to visit the site and meet the stakeholders. The project also assisted in providing additional details and information for the State Party's State of Conservation reports, which were submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the World Heritage Committee in 2015 and 2015.

Main achievement

| Masoala National Park | Marojeje National Park |
|--|---|
| 01 Reactive Monitoring Mission carried-out by IUCN and the WHC in September – October 2015 | 01 Reactive Monitoring Mission carried-out by IUCN and the WHC in September –October 2015 |



Cover page of the mission report, Edmond Moukala and Frank Hawkins, September 2015

III. Problems encountered in the project implementation and corrective actions taken

A. Use of LEM/SMART monitoring tool

WCS encountered coordination and technical problems in establishing the use of LEM/SMART tool in the six National Parks of the Eastern Rainforests WHP.

The MNP Central Office took longer than expected to agree on the total adoption of the LEM/SMART tool in all the six parks as they had received funding from the World Bank on the use of MIST (the former logiciel) and were reluctant to replace it. Yet, local staff complained about the weaknesses of MIST, which eventually convinced the MNP to integrate the new LEM/SMART tool.

Therefore, the progress made in using the SMART tool was not the same in all of the parks. For example, Marojejy staff lagged behind the other parks in adopting the SMART tool.

There were also problems of equipment: the parks staff did not have enough GPS and the available ones were outdated. Even though the project purchased some GPS for local staff, the amount was insufficient.

In addition, the technical capacity of the local staff was also very limited, which made it difficult for them to easily use the LEM/SMART tool. This problem was also noticed among LPC leaders because most of them could not read, so it was a challenge for them to use such technical tools.

In order to resolve this, on-site field training was increased and open discussions took place to enable local staff to share their difficulties in using LEM/SMART. In addition, WCS technicians coached MNP staff and LPC leaders during monitoring missions.

In the end, the MNP Central Office finally agreed to use LEM/SMART in all of the parks it is managing, and in priority those within the WHP. A central staff was specifically appointed to be in charge of this programme.

All the local staff difficulties and constraints were discussed and resolved during the different workshops organized on the LEM/SMART tool. The local staff are responsible for collecting the data using GPS, and the LPC leaders were assigned to simpler tasks such as taking notes or assisting MNP staff with GPS data collection.

B. Effective enforcement of laws

One of the main problems faced by MNP staff and LPC was the effective enforcement of laws. The Government has issued legal texts forbidding any activities that affect precious wood (cutting, clearings...) within protected areas. Yet, there were still some cases reported by MNP local staff at Masoala and Marojejy about precious wood cutting that had received

official authorization signed by either Regional or Central Forests Authorities.

Moreover, MNP staff do not have judicial authority as it is an association, so they cannot arrest nor pursue traffickers once they are located outside of the parks. LPC community patrols faced the same challenge since they do not have the mandate to arrest traffickers even if they are caught in flagrant delicto. LPC complained about some traffickers who were put in prison, but then freed the following day, only to return to the site to threaten the communities.

These issues remain a challenge and have not yet been resolved mostly due to political issues. As a result, the project could only assist in increasing surveillance patrols and monitoring missions.

C. Conducting biological inventory and ecological monitoring missions

There was a logistical problem in completing this activity on time. A portion of the road from Antananarivo to the parks region was completely inaccessible for some time due to its poor condition. The taxonomic experts needed to transport very heavy equipment by road and could not go to the sites by plane. This situation caused a delay in finalizing the inventory in Marojejy.

Logistics are also very complicated at Masoala due to its difficult access (it is only accessible by boat). Therefore, the time spent at Masoala had to be shortened. Instead of exploring the five sites identified, the experts could only work in detail on the four sites; whereas, the fifth site was rapidly studied. For Marojejy, the three identified sites have all been explored in detail. Despite these challenges, the main activities were completed before the end of the project thanks to the efforts of the experts.

D. Public awareness and community projects

The main challenge for this activity was the delay in receiving confirmation of the GEF/SGP funding. The communities were consulted and involved in submitting proposals in 2014; however, due to GEF's internal administrative reasons, the funds were not available until April 2016. This delay left the public wondering and uncertain about the feasibility of carrying out their projects.

The Tany Meva local agents who undertook public awareness campaigns had difficulties convincing the community members who became less and less motivated due to the funding delay. Nevertheless, Tany Meva continued their work with the support of the traditional leaders and the community elders. Finally, the funds were transferred into their bank accounts in June 2016 and the projects are now underway.

Although this UNESCO Funds-in-Trust project officially ended in June 2016, the micro-projects have just started. Therefore, the communities are left on their own to implement the projects. Although GEF/SGP has foreseen community coaching within the projects budgets, there is no budget for the coaching equipment.

As a solution, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNESCO and GEF/SGP in order to continue the community coaching at Masoala and Marojejy NP for the duration of

the micro-projects. The two coaches for the two parks have already been identified--they are the former local agents of Tany Meva who undertook the coaching and public awareness in the frame of this UNESCO Funds-in-Trust project. Under the terms of the MoU, UNESCO is providing equipment to the coaches while GEF/SGP is covering their salaries, which were already included in the micro-projects funds budget.

IV. Progress towards results

Global objective

The project global objective aimed to remove the Rainforests of the Atsinanana from the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger.

This objective was not reached because it depends on other corrective measures defined by the World Heritage Committee following the results and recommendations of the joint WHC-IUCN Reactive Monitoring Missions carried-out in 2011¹. In fact, the project only addressed 5 of the 11 correctives measures. The 6 other measures related to rosewood stock-management and law effectiveness were to be implemented by the Government, but most of them have not yet been realized.

Following the 2015 WHC-IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the WHP, the World Heritage Committee decided in its last session in Istanbul in July 2016 to maintain the Rainforests of the Atsinanana on the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger.

Moreover, there were three indicators established to measure the desired state of conservation of the property:

1. Cutting of precious wood is stopped in the 6 parks
2. Deforestation rate do not exceed 0;01% per year.
3. Most affected areas have recovered and their ecological restoration is on-going

Through the expected results obtained, the project enabled significant progress to be made towards most of the indicators initially foreseen in this project.

a. Expected Results

Expected Result 1: The pressures of logging of precious woods and deforestation at Masoala and Marojejy NP are brought under permanent control

This result was partially obtained thanks to the improvement of monitoring tools and the empowerment of patrols and brigades, which made systematic surveillance missions.

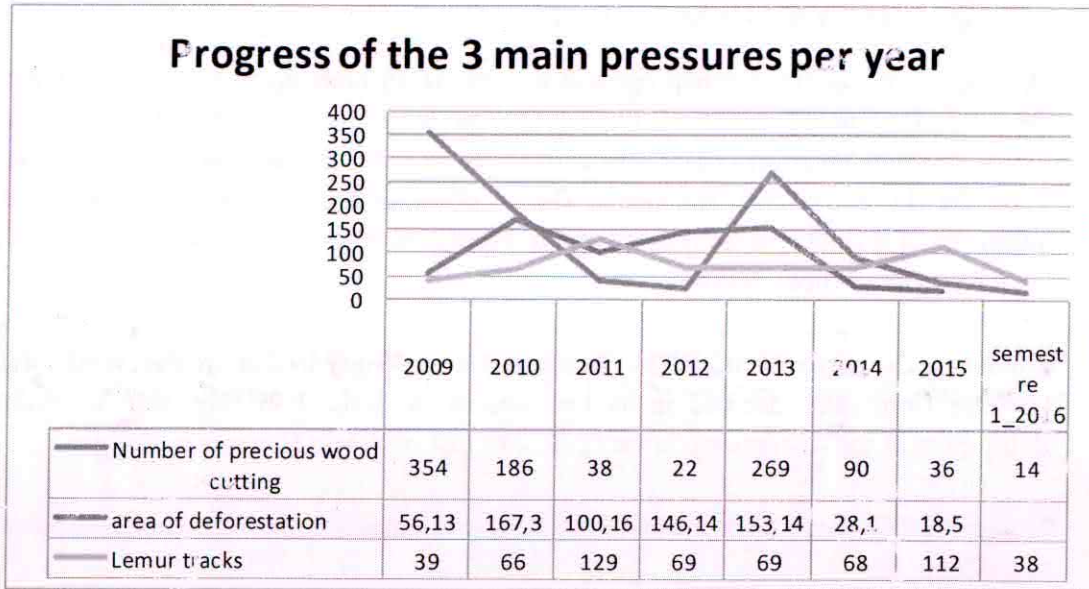
2011, pp.32-33.

b. Results obtained:

During the project period, the number of pressures progressively decreased as shown by the diagram made from MNP data.

The number of parcels or area guarded was also increased thanks to the project. 792 monitoring squares were controlled by brigades at Masoala and Marojejy between 2014-2016.

- ★ Cutting of precious wood reduced to 15,5% between 2014-2016 (1st semester)
- ★ Deforestation rate maintained under 0,01% per year (2014-2015)



© MNP, 2016

Expected Result 2: A system of ecological monitoring of the OUV attributes is operational and contributes directly to their long-term conservation

This expected result was fully reached at the end of the project. Monitoring missions were first held within Masoala and Marojejy NP to identify key-sites for the inventory.

Then, surveys of the selected sites were carried-out by scientific experts in different taxonomic groups, in collaboration with the local staff and communities. Park agents and LPC representatives benefited from this field research, which was strengthened by theoretical trainings.

The adoption of the LEM/SMART monitoring tool and training in its use contributed directly to the sustainable monitoring and conservation of the WHP. The results of the biological inventory were entered in the SMART database in order to monitor the integrity of the key species within the parks.

Results obtained:

- ★ Identification of the most vulnerable habitat areas of endangered species listed in the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species. This enabled the adoption of a preservation prioritization policy as defined in MNP Monitoring Manual.
- ★ Highlight of a key indicator on the remaining integrity of Marojejy et Masoala Parks, which is shown through the identification of vulnerable species still located within the parks.
- ★ Production of a reference document containing a detailed scientific study carried-out on the results of the biological inventory on Masoala and Marojejy Parks.

Expected Result 3: Local communities are actively involved in the protection of the World Heritage property

The community mobilization approach adopted through the project implementation was one of the key factors leading to the full attainment of this expected result.

The local communities participated previously in logging of precious wood by assisting the traffickers. By mobilizing them and getting them closely involved in all the preservation activities of the parks (surveillance patrols and ecological monitoring), the project made considerable progress in reducing the illegal activities in the parks. The community members were also motivated by trainings and empowerment of LPCs.

In addition, the public awareness programme created a common vision and will to preserve the forests in a sustainable way. Community Pacts (rules) were created and closely enforced by the community leaders.

The development of the community micro-projects also proved to be very effective. In helping the community members develop alternative economic activities, the project reduced the principle pressures threatening the forests. The communities agreed that when they have stable financial incomes, they are less tempted to resume logging of precious wood. Moreover, the promotion of farming to provide alternative sources of protein also helped to reduce lemur poaching.

Results obtained:

- ★ Strong involvement of community in parks surveillance and monitoring through LPC (2014-2016 : Masoala counted 493 CLP and Marojejy 214).
- ★ Active and increasing contribution of community in reducing pressures on the forests through micro-projects implementation.
- ★ Change in community behaviours : they currently show a strong will to protect the parks and show that they are aware of the threats that pend upon them if they do not preserve their environment.
- ★ Establishment of a dynamic community cooperation hand in hand with the mobilization of other actors: local authorities.

Expected Result 4: The state of conservation of the property is more closely monitored by the WHC

This result was also attained through the project activities. UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, based in Nairobi, submitted periodic reports to the WHC on the progress of the project implementation in order to raise their awareness of issues at the site and provide details from monitoring mechanisms.

In September 2015, a Reactive Monitoring Mission to the WHP was carried-out by IUCN and the WHC. This mission enabled the WHC to directly monitor the project activities and make an assessment of the progress made towards implementation of the World Heritage Committee recommendations for the WHP in view of its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

SummaryTable

| The conditions have been met for the Rainforests of Atsinanana to be withdrawn from the List of World Heritage in Danger | | Overall assessment : All planned activities have been implemented, but the main objective which is to remove the property from the List of WH in Danger has not been completed due to external factors such as political engagement, problems of law effectiveness... | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Expected Results | Performance Indicators (PI) and associated Target (T)/baselines (b) | | Achievement(s) |
| | Programmed | Attained | |
| ER1: The pressures of logging of precious wood and deforestation in the two parks are brought under permanent control | PI: 6 parks T/b: 6 parks | 15 parks | -Use of LEM/SMART in all the six parks within the WHP and in 9 other national parks -Training of MNP central and local staff |
| | PI: 20 trained T/b: 20 | 14 focal points 02 central technicians 81 park agents 56 LPC | |
| | PI: 40 missions at Marojejy 16 missions of mixed brigades 81 missions by LPC | 63 patrols 15 missions of mixed brigade at Marojejy 01 Masoala 70 Marojejy | Regular surveillance and monitoring missions association Ministry of Environment, MNP, Gendarmerie, Community LPC |
| | | 185 LPC trained | |
| | | | <p>Output 1: SMART model used by parks in Madagascar</p> <p>Output 2: CD-Rom containing SMART user manual and reference documents produced</p> <p>Output 3: Equipment of surveillance and monitoring actors (motorcycles, bikes, GPS, tennis, mobile phones, cameras)</p> <p>Output 4: Training of community actors (LPC)</p> |

Final narrative report

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| | <p>PI: 240km long for boundary signs at Marojejy T/b: 240km</p> | <p>Boundary signs installed along 240km of the WHP border</p> | <p>Limits demarcated by visible signs</p> | <p>Output 5: Collaboration between FAPBM, MNP, Community</p> |
| <p>ER2: A system of ecological monitoring of the OUV attributes is operational and contributes directly to their long-term conservation</p> | <p>PI: 02 T/b: 02</p> | <p>02 monitoring missions 02 biological inventories</p> | <p>05 key sites identified and inventoried at Masoala 03 key-sites identified and inventoried at Marojejy 350 brochures for Masoala and 350 for Marojejy containing summary of OUV attributes</p> | <p>Output 1: Agreement between FAPBM and VAHATRA to mobilize taxonomic experts Output 2: Collaboration between FAPBM, MNP, VAHATRA and Community Output 3: The results of the biological inventories carried-out by experts and the community</p> |
| <p>ER3: Neighbouring communities are actively involved in the protection of the WHP</p> | <p>PI: 81 LPC missions T/b: 81</p> <p>PI: 28 projects T/b: 28</p> | <p>350 brochures for Masoala and 350 for Marojejy 70 at Marojejy 7 grouped projects including 28 terroirs</p> | <p>70 patrol missions made by LPC at Marojejy 7 grouped projects funded and started 28 DMPs developed</p> | <p>Output 1: Training of LPC Output 2: GEF/SGP funding Output 3: Community coaching</p> |
| <p>ER4: The state of conservation of the property is closely monitored by the World Heritage Center</p> | <p>PI: 1 mission T/b:</p> | <p>1 mission</p> | <p>1 reactive monitoring mission</p> | <p>Output 1: Collaboration among all stakeholders</p> |

V. Sustainability and Exit/transition strategy

The strategy adopted for the implementation of the project activities foresaw the sustainability of the results.

Creation and empowerment of local bodies and management structure

The project helped create and made operational several local bodies that were mandated to control and monitor the site's preservation (LPC, VA, VVS). These bodies are still working even after the project's completion.

The project also empowered MNP, which is the parks managing structure both in terms of equipment and tools as well as in terms of monitoring methodology (Monitoring Manual), which will be used for the following 10 years.

Participative and cultural approach

Most of the project activities were undertaken in a participative approach enabling the communities to be closely involved. This led to the communities' full adherence to the project.

The consultation and involvement of traditional leaders and the community elders in the public awareness activities demonstrated respect for the local culture, which helped to guarantee the sustainability of the project results.

Capacity transfer

Capacity building activities undertaken in the framework of the project will also help maintain the results obtained. All the principal actors who will continue the surveillance and monitoring of the parks were trained: from MNP technicians to community LCP. Therefore, even after the end of the project, these actors will be able to continue using the SMART tool, making surveillance patrols and ecological monitoring. Moreover, the 'training of trainers' approach proved effective for capacity transfer among participants.

Promotion of alternative economic activities

The most effective guarantee of the sustainability of the project results is to assist the local communities in having sustainable economic incomes through the promotion of alternative economic activities such as cultivation of vanilla, giroffle or rice. As long as their economical needs are satisfied, they will not be tempted to be involved in logging of precious woods.

The funding of the seven selected community micro-projects at the neighbouring villages of Masoala and Marojejy NP will help reduce the pressures that might threatened the parks' preservation.

The delay of GEF/SGP funding could be considered an advantage as it will ensure the communities' attention is focused on the implementation of the micro-projects over the next two years, which will continue to contribute to the parks' preservation.

Mobilization of different actors

The project set up a collaboration mechanism with the mixed brigades which associated different actors (national authorities, Gendarmerie and community). Moreover, different technical and financial partners were also involved in the project to seek for the same objective of removing the property from the UNESCO List of WH in Danger.

VI. Visibility

Visibility activities by partners:

Implementation partners contributed to the communication on the project through some activities or deliverables they made: roll-up banners, posters, and booklets during workshops and community meetings. The manual and reference documents on LEM/SMART, which were distributed to the different stakeholders contained the logos of UNESCO and the Government of Norway. All implementation partners also published articles about the project on their websites.

Visibility activities by UNESCO:

An official launching of the project was held at Colbert Hotel in Antananarivo on May, 27th 2014. It was attended by about 50 persons, representing the main partners including the Ministry of Environment of Forest, Ministry in charge of Heritage and local and international technical and financial partners.

This ceremony helped draw renewed attention to the logging of rosewood, which is problem widely covered by national media²

This ceremony was also an opportunity to increase awareness of UNESCO actions in assisting the Malagasy Government in preserving its heritage through the support of Norway.

Throughout the project, UNESCO collaborated with local and international media for coverage of the project progress and outcomes. Numerous stories were featured in print and broadcast media. News articles were also prepared and published on the web sites of the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, World Heritage Center and the three partners (FAPBM, Tany Meva and WCS).

The closing ceremony was held in Antananarivo on 23 September 2016 to officially close the project and present its results to partners, the public and the media. The results of the external evaluation of the project were also presented during this ceremony. Approximately 70 participants representing all the main stakeholders were in attendance. The event was addressed by the Chief of Norwegian Embassy Office in Madagascar, UNESCO, and the representative of the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forests. Each of the implementing partners, FAPBM, Tany Meva Foundation and WCS presented the main activities and results of their projects. The Evaluation team also presented the findings of their evaluation.

The ceremony offered an opportunity to all of these actors in the field of environment and heritage conservation to discuss the results as well as the challenges ahead.

During the closing ceremony, , an exhibition was on display featuring the main outcomes of the project. The exhibition featured roll-up banners and brochures. All communication materials contained the logos of UNESCO, the Norwegian Government , the Government of Madagascar and the implementing partners.

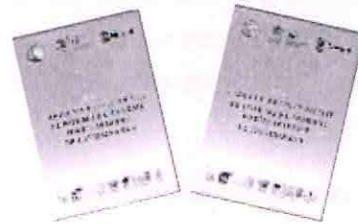
² Articles available in Annexes.



One of the banners exhibited at the closing ceremony



Speech of Mrs Janne Marit Knutrud, Chief of Norway Embassy Office in Antananarivo



Brochures

©UNESCO, September 2016

VI. Challenges and lessons learned

Remaining challenges

There are still some challenges that have to be overcome in view of removing the Rainforests of the Atsinanana from the List of WH in Danger:

- ★ The ineffectiveness of the law enforcement and sanctions on offenders (for bribery)
- ★ The absence of sworn officers within MNP to verbalize on crimes
- ★ Continuity of illegal logging of precious woods in the parks
- ★ The lack of support and ongoing coaching for income generating activities among communities to reduce pressures perennially
- ★ The lack of human, material and financial resources of Madagascar National Parks to face pressures.

Lessons learned and recommendations

The following recommendations were developed from lessons learned throughout the project implementation, and mainly from the discussions among participants, which was held during the closing ceremony.

Coordination of actions and information sharing

There are numerous actors and stakeholders in the preservation of biodiversity in Madagascar. Many projects are being implemented simultaneously with similar activities. Therefore, it would be more effective to establish a collaborative platform associating the different actors in order to prevent duplicating activities and to share information, results and best practices.

Effective engagement

It was agreed that it is crucial that everyone needs to take his/her responsibility starting from local communities to Government authorities. The latter were especially urged in strengthening application of laws and fight against corruption.

Empowerment of management bodies

MNP and local forests authorities should be reinforced in terms of human, material and financial resources. It is also essential to give legislative power to MNP staff to enable them verbalize on illegal activities.

Accompany local community

Coaching and supporting communities in developing their economic activities can contribute to the reduction of pressures on the forests. So, it is important to continue efforts that have been made.

VII. Annexes

- Final report of WCS
- Final report of Tany Meva Foundation
- Final report of FAPBM
- Final evaluation report
- Newspaper articles