

## FINAL REPORT

Habitat loss in the buffer zone of National Park of  
Isalo: effects on *Scaphiophryne gottlebei* and *Mantella*  
*expectata*

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECT

by

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### Acknowledgement:

Our special thanks are for **Rufford Small Grants Foundation** by helping us to realize our project for conserving the two endemics amphibian species of Isalo (*Scaphiophryne gottlebei* and *Mantella expectata*).

We would like to thank also Dr Raherilalao Marie Jeanne, Pr Jonah Ratsimbazafy and Pr Franco Andreone who advise us, help us and give good critics in order to improve our project both in theoretical and practical approaches.

Through this project, we had reached our social objectives which are:

- Training and sharing our skills and knowledge on amphibian conservation and environmental protection.
- We had identified one subproject and realize it with support of **Madagascar National Parks**.

However, we think that more social activities need to be established in Isalo in order to more involve local population in our goal because this project is the first pilot project which concerns the amphibian conservation in this area; So, we think that our activities need some survey and control in order to have more impact.

## **Sensitization and information sharing**

During 5 discontinued months, with Mr RANDRIANARISOA Rijaniaina, socio-economist team, we made sensitization and environmental practice with villagers in the buffer zone of Isalo Park.

These activities happened in Anakandrareo (6 km from the park boundary/ West) and Andriamanero (3 km of park boundary/ East) which gather 8 little villages where are in the vicinity of the habitat of *Mantella expectata* and *Scaphiophryne gottlebei*'s. Also, we sensitized 38 participants. Local population in these villages is dependent on the park resources.

According to social objectives of our project, this project allows us to gather their problem in order to reduce habitat loss through the proposition of subproject.

### **1. Problems:**

During our investigation, we organized a social meeting with local population. It enables us to bring out the following major environmental problems:

#### **a. Bush fire:**

Due to the crisis, lack of financial support to fight against bush fire was enough for the country. Despite of Park agent effort, this financial disadvantage increases the bush fire in the buffer zone of Isalo where all part of the East was burned and in some part of the West region.



After bush fire in the buffer zone of Isalo (video [here](#))

According to local population, they practice it in order to provide cattle grassland because they cannot buy food (provender...) for their zebu. Secondary, as this area is a road for thief of zebu these bandits burned the region in order to erase their tracks.

b. Harvesting in the park

Despite of laws which govern the park, local population harvested the park and it is often saw that they collect bees or medicinal plants... Unfortunately, some of them are in the vicinity of frogs' habitat (in the buffer zone or inside the park).

Furthermore, local people take also their firewood inside the park because the buffer zone is actually deserted due to the bush fire and lack of reforestation activities.

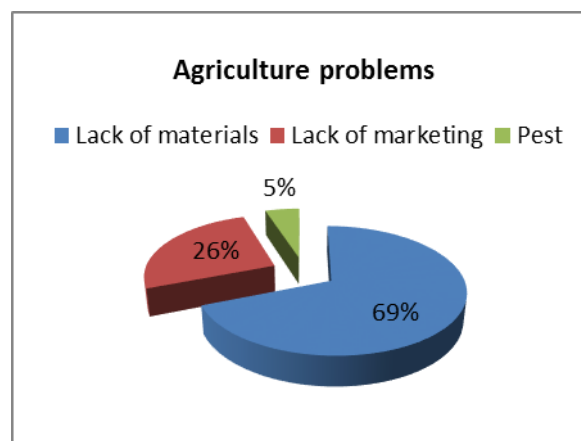
c. Land clearing for agriculture use

As we saw, local population is poor and has not enough money to buy materials in order to reuse their land. Consequently, they try to find new agricultural land and go more and more in the park.



Land clearing for agricultural use (tavy) in the west of the park

During social meetings and individual inquiry, we gathered the following agriculture problems.



Agriculture problems in Isalo

d. Sapphire mining

Due to the weakness of our government especially during this crisis, some illegal mining was recorded especially in the buffer zone of the park. During our field work, the agent of the park apprehended a sapphire minor's in Bekaraoka site. This illegal practice happened more and more during these last 4 years.

e. Illegal collection of Scaphiophryne in the park

According to our interview with the Director of the park, they remark that, a part of the collection in Ilakaka be, which is in the buffer zone, his agent remark a collection in the East inside the park where they found some species during the rainy season before but actually, no species was recorded. Unfortunately, due to the lack of materials in order to establish a regular survey, they cannot confirm it.

Through our funding, we gave solution as we can.

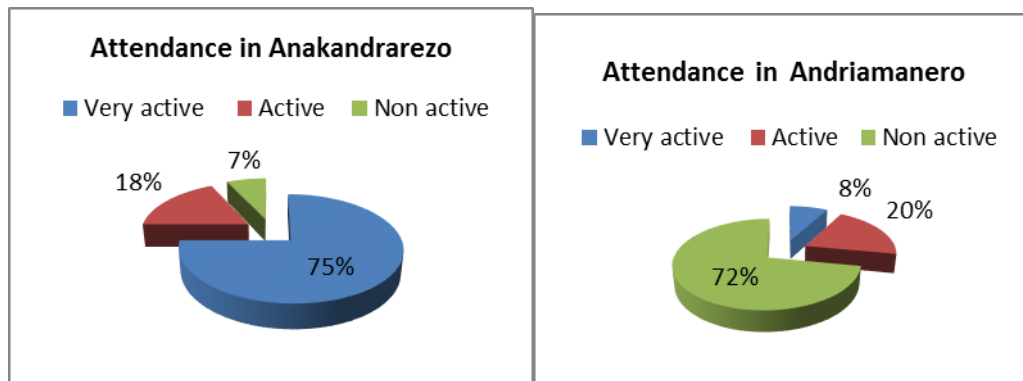
2. Solutions

a. Sensitization

Our sensitization was divided into 2 steps which are: environmental protection and frogs' protection. This part was in collaboration with Soazara.

Results

• Attendance rate during sensitization

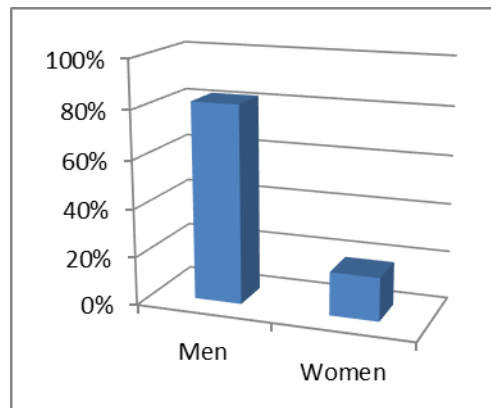


Attendance rate in Anakandrarezo

Attendance rate in Andriamanero

According to our investigation, we found that motivation of local population is very different from these two sites. This is because Anakandrarezo is near of Ranohira commune (7 km of Ranohira) where

villagers benefit on more sensitization and subproject (eg: AROPA) but Andriamanero is in 32 km (side road) of the commune where there is no much sensitization and it is not accompanying with suitable measurement (sub-project). Furthermore, tourism activities are centralized around Ranohira despite of the presence of tours in this region.



Attendance rate of gender during sensitization

As we create our NGO in order to involve women to the protection of environment, during sensitizations, we found that few women attended it. This is because of our tradition which does not allow women development in the community. This is a challenge for us and more sensitization is needed for gender approach.

- Frogs' sensitization

In these villages, we organized two sensitizations on the importance of these endemics frogs in National and International level. Apart of distributing flyers guide in local language, we explain also some laws governing the park and wild species. Participants were interesting and are very enthusiasts by discussing and sharing their knowledge with us.



### Flyers guide in local language

We explain also some biology and ecology of the species. Unfortunately, as this is the first time, local population needs more sensitization in this sense. Also, with them, we would like to establish auxiliary researchers whose will be responsible of local population awareness and survey and control of these amphibian species.



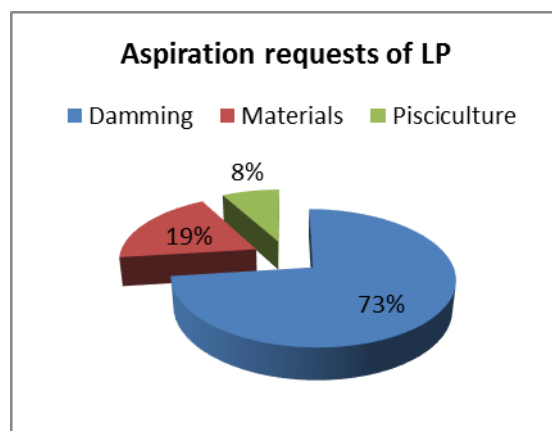
Soazara distributing the Flyers guide to local community

We remark also that children are very interesting and put many questions. Also, we think that if we have enough funds, we will organize Save the Frogs' event there on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

As during this sensitization, our primary target people are collector of these species, it is unfortunately impossible because these people are in majority in Ilakaka Be which is actually not secured because of the bandit (thief zebu). Also, we hope that after election, we could continue our sensitization in this region.

### Sub – project

During our social investigation, we gathered local population aspiration.



### Aspiration requests of local population

According to the problem related above and from the aspiration of local population, we gave local community some materials (with RSG logo) that we used also for our reforestation activities. They are also trained on how to maintain them by filling a set of specification.



Mr Rija presenting the materials for Andriamanero sites (he trained them on how to maintain these materials by using a set of specifications)

- Reforestation practice

According to our original project, a reforestation is one of subproject relating to the need of local community. Effectively, actually, due to the bush fire and forest clearing, people take firewood inside the park or very far from their locality. Also, with their suggestion, we accompanied the sensitization with a reforestation training and practice with a specialist from CIRAD, Mr Willfred. Also, we gave them all necessary materials and training. During the practice, we trained them on the elaboration of seedbed (with seeds which are from SILO and have a high rate of growth) and seedlings (see Annex)



Mr Willfred explained how to elaborate a seedbed in Anakandrarezo (besides, an park agent following and surveying the training)



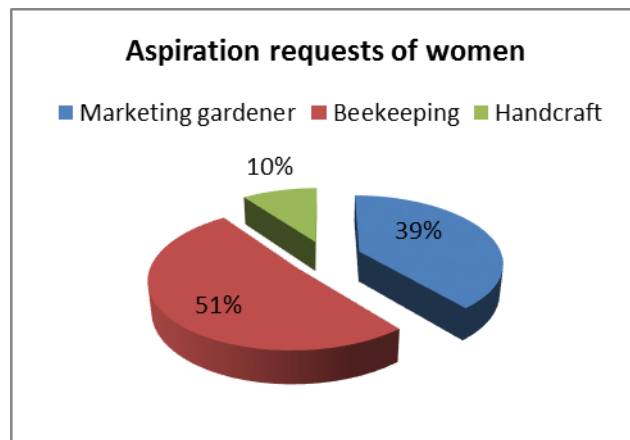
Establishment of seedbed with local raw materials in Andriamanero



Reforestation in Anakandrarezo

- Aspiration of women

As we would like to work with women by involving them in environmental and development activities and in the same time respect the tradition, we gather their aspiration and try to find financial resources from other donors as from website <http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/beekeeping-to-improve-210-villagers-life-in-isalo/> but unfortunately, we raised only \$85. Actually, we apply to **VGIF grants** and hope that we can have it in order to accomplish our project. Our project concerns beekeeping in the region.



Aspiration request of women

## List of materials offered per sites

Dons	Désignation	Quantity
Materials	wheelbarrow	02
	spade	08
	pell	01
	rake	04
	cart	05
Seed	Eucalyptus robusta	100 g
	Stereospermum euphoroides	100 g
	Moringa Oleifera	100 g
	Delonix regia	100 g
	Melia azedarach	100 g
	Melia azedarach imported	100 g
Seedlings	Stereospermum euphoroides	20
	Voandelaka gasy	50
	Voandelaka vazaha	50
	Casuarina equisetifolia	40
	Acacia	3
	Palissandre	6
	Baobab	6

Seed and seedlings choice are according to the request of local population, climate and soil conditions (firewood, construction wood and emblematic plants)



Seed for seedbed



Seedlings with materials that we distributed