



ANTONGIL CONSERVATION



Sustainable conservation of an isolated primary forest in eastern Madagascar



The NGO: our team

Mission: Antongil Conservation, a Malagasy NGO created in 1999, works to protect the forest and biodiversity by sustainably managing the Farankaraina forest (1,600 ha), raising awareness of the importance of nature among the inhabitants and setting up local development actions to improve the living conditions of human communities.

Malagasy team of 13 people

General coordinator: Thorel Alexis
 Education: Gaga Zafindalana + Alexina
 Farankaraina manager: Elyonord
 Guardian in Makira: Salomon
 Cleaning lady for ecotourism: Yvette

Administration & accounting: Elisé Sambo
 Ecotourism: Shonia INDRIRANA
 Forest guards: Bera, Tobe, Bezaka, Linoh
 Piroguier: Novel



The NGO: our partners

Europe:

BIOPARC de Doué la Fontaine (our representative) (Fr) and its Fonds de dotation Bioparc Conservation, Zoo de Champrepus (Fr), Parc Animalier d'Auvergne (Fr), Paire Daiza Foundation (Be), Parc Animalier de la Barben & Écofaune, Association des Amis du Zoo de Lyon, Zoo d'Upie, NPCOMM, Association pour le Développement Pédagogique et Scientifique du Parc de l'Auxois, Zoo de la Palmyre, EAZA Prosimian TAG.

Madagascar:

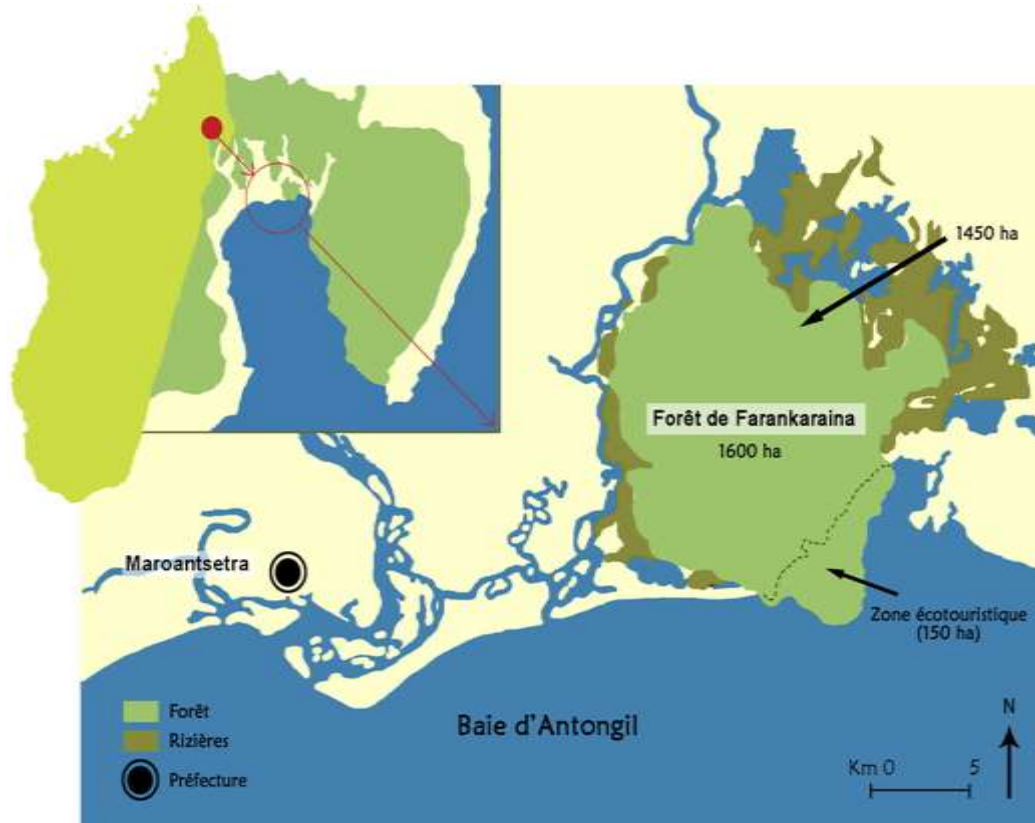
Malagasy Ministry of Environment and Forests, Analanjirifo Region, Malagasy local authorities, School District of the region, Madagascar National Parks, WCS Masoala, GERP (Malagasy group for primates' study) & Impact Madagascar, Ministry of Health



Our area of activity

Northeast of the island – Antongil bay

- Maroantsetra district
- Protected Farankaraina forest and its neighbouring villages
- Bush villages along the Antanambalena River



The Farankaraina forest is an island of forest surrounded for the most part by rice fields and the sea. Ten villages surround it. It is located between the Masoala National Park and the large protected area of Makira.

Only 18 km from the town of Maroantsetra, it is easily accessible on foot, by bicycle, by motorbike as well as by rowing or motorised dugout canoes and motorised boats by sea. It represents a total area of 1,634 ha and has a very rich biodiversity, just like the neighbouring protected areas.



Our areas of action: Farankaraina

Forest classification:

This forest was first managed by the Malagasy Ministry of the Environment and Forests, which declared it a classified forest in 1961. In 2006, the same Ministry entrusted us with its management. Since obtaining the management of the site, we have been carrying out actions for the protection of biodiversity in the forest and development in villages along the river.

We have defined 4 types of zones to allow the inhabitants to benefit from its resources while respecting it, and to present its beauty to Malagasy and foreigners.

Features

- Coastal rainforest
- Altitude between 0 and 400 metres
- High ambient humidity: 80%.
- Average temperature of 25°C



Emblematic species:

White-fronted brown lemur (*Eulemur albifrons*) EN
 Greater dwarf lemur (*Cheirogaleus major*) DD
 Oriental mouse lemur (*Microcebus sp.*) EN
 Eastern fork-marked lemur (*Phaner furcifer*) VU
 Northern bamboo lemur (*Hapalemur occidentalis*) VU
Red-ruffed lemur (*Varecia rubra*) CR / Reintroduced
 Ring-tailed mongoose (*Galidia elegans elegans*) LC
 Madagascar crested ibis (*Lophotibis cristata*) NT

Aye-Aye (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*) EN
 Eastern woolly lemur (*Avahi laniger*) EN
 Madagascar serpent-eagle (*Eutriorchis astur*) EN
 Small Indian civet (*Viverricula indica*)
 Blue coua (*Coua caerulea*) LC
 Helmet vanga (*Euryceros prevostii*) VU
 Fanalouc (*Eupleres goudotii goudotii*) NT
 Fosa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*) VU

Our actions: **environmental education**

RAISING AWARENESS OF NATURE PROTECTION AMONG THE POPULATION

Awareness raising - Animation - Supervision on environmental protection

Antongil Conservation was originally created to promote education. After 22 years of existence, we are still focused on improving environmental communication strategies within our area of action.

In this environmental education action, our main goals in 2022 are:

- To share information about the importance of the environment, especially about "the forest and the animals that live in it, the water and the sea, as well as Man".
- Make governmental and non-governmental institutions responsible for forest conservation.
- Educate children to love nature.

To achieve these goals the staff of Antongil Conservation has set up adequate strategies according to the categories of people targeted by this action. These strategies are as follows

- Awareness raising among villagers + Workshops and meetings
- Animations in the village "tomato frog" located in Maroantsetra ville.
- Weekly broadcast in a private radio station FM 96.6.

- **Raising awareness in the villages around the Farankaraina forest and in other villages.**

Antongil Conservation raises awareness about environmental protection in Antongil Bay. Each year, the person in charge of education in the bush, Gagà and Tobe travel to each village around Farankaraina with equipment (generator, microphone, speaker, television screen, DVD player and documentary films). Novel, on the other hand, travels with a motorised boat.

These village awareness-raising missions serve as a permanent link between Antongil and the local population so that the villagers do not think that the Antongil team is the forest police.

The aim of this awareness-raising action is to permanently educate the villagers about the protection and management of the forest.

The 10 villages involved in the environmental education programme in the bush and our awareness sessions are located around the Farankaraina forest and are as follows Navana, Andranofotsy, Ambodivoangy, Ambodibaro, Ambohimoko, Antsanofia, Anjômo, Ampafatra, Antsangambato, Ankazomandrôko, Takôly.

Several themes were addressed throughout the year, such as

- ✓ Explanation and question and answer on the need for environmental protection.
- ✓ Change of behaviour towards global warming for cultivation and daily needs (firewood, construction wood etc.).
- ✓ Protection of animals and their habitats for the terrestrial and marine ecosystem.
- ✓ Reforestation of bare land for regeneration with the aim of not only climate protection but also for cultivation purposes.
- ✓ Lease agreement with the Analanjirifo Environmental Service Directorate for Antongil conservation for 25 years on the management of the forest station.
- ✓ Other: The birth of 3 baby red ruffed lemurs, the site is favourable for reintroduction. The conservation of the site is paramount as their habitat must be protected.
- ✓ Lemur festival objective and place of celebration this year



As a result, the pressure in the forest station is very minimal, which means that Antongil Conservation is working tirelessly to conserve the area as such for future generations.

The awareness raising and animation is divided into three main parts: the speech of the village representative, the speech of Antongil Conservation, and then a part with questions and answers, animation and the projection of an environmental film.

Target: children, adults and the elderly (Question and answer):

- ✓ Give the exact name of the NGO that works on environmental conservation, Makira, Masoala, Antongil Conservation, in your area?
- ✓ Simple definition of the environment
- ✓ Benefit of environmental protection?
- ✓ Consequence of destruction?
- ✓ Why pooping in the river is not good?
- ✓ Give a solution to avoid going out in the river?
- ✓ Give three names of hardwoods you know?
- ✓ We did a translocation of lemurs in Farankaraina, which lemur is it?
- ✓ What colour is it?

Each awareness-raising session is to be followed by a screening of an environmental film after the question-and-answer session. Among the films shown are "The anaconda, the great animals of South America", "Wild complicity - the tropical forests", "The lemurs of Madagascar", "Reptile training", or "Amazon jungle".

The indicator is the number of villagers who participate in the question-and-answer session and who are present and stay during an animation.

World Environment Day (WED 2022)

The Regional World Environment Day of Analanjirofo takes place in Ambinanitélo on June 14, 2022. The celebration is under the high patronage of the Governor of Analanjirofo and the Regional Director of Environment and Sustainable Development who are all present during the festivity.

Like the other organizations, Antongil Conservation participates in the presentation exhibitions, reforestation and financial support. Many people came to honour the date including WCS Makira, Madagascar National Park, USAID Mikajy, USAID Hay TAO, Graine de vie, Antongil Conservation, Cantonnement de Maroantsetra, Fandroak'ando, Orange, etc. and the community of the rural commune of Ambinanitélo.



On the agenda:

- Welcome of the Authorities by carnival around the village (Governor, DREED, District Chief, Brigade Commander, Police Commissioner, representatives of each institution)
- Speeches
- Visit of the exhibitions
- Reforestation
- Meals
- Radio contest and animation
- Traditional dance competition
- Green evening



Conclusion: The Governor of the Analanjrofo region insisted on the importance of protecting nature for the future generation, as the world's climate is changing abruptly, leading to increased cyclone frequencies and droughts that destroy our culture. The government's objective is to reduce the pressure on the forest in order to achieve food self-sufficiency in Madagascar by building irrigation dams for rice cultivation.

Finally, he thanked all the participants in this celebration, be it the various organisations, the traditional dance teams, the school children, the members of COBA, etc. It can be said that the celebration is a success for the environment.

Education in the Tomato Frog Village

Alexina meets with schoolchildren and students every Wednesday at the Frog Tomato Village and at their school to learn about the importance of environmental protection.

She is sometimes accompanied by the Antongil team during her intervention. The interpretation centre of the Tomato Frog village is well equipped and attracts young people to come there.

Theme:

- ✓ Definition of the environment and its importance
- ✓ Endemic animals
- ✓ Impacts of climate change and disruption
- ✓ Deforestation
- ✓ Amphibians, insects, molluscs, mammals, birds, reptiles
- ✓ Cleaning the place



Nature outings :

The students of the New Formula High School went to Farankaraina in September 2022. These 25 high school students studied the exact definition of the environment, the role of the forest, the pressures that weigh and the solutions. Other topics were also discussed such as the definition of bush fires, logging and finally the orientation guide for a university course. In addition, the high school students clean the beach of Farankaraina to finish their 2nd day before leaving.

Pupils in primary school class at EPP go on outings to the Tomato frog village. The LMT Environmental Club also cleans up the site once a month.

Local radio 2000.

It is a weekly program every Wednesday in radio 2000 in which Antongil participates throughout the year. We mainly talk about the protection of fauna and flora in the MAMABAIE region.

Every week at 7:00 p.m., the Antongil Conservation team invites local radio 2000 listeners to a program called "TOHANA". A theme is chosen and addressed in each program and developed for 25 minutes and ended with a French and Malagasy proverb depending on the theme.



Among the themes addressed in 2022: food chain, climate change, deforestation (illegal logging and clearing) from causes through consequences to solutions, plastic waste and impacts, marine mammal, water pollution, mangrove, marine ecosystem and land, animals and plants endemic to Madagascar, tomato frog, endangered species...

Participants: Gagà, Sambo, Alexina & guest: member of environmental CLUBs...

Observations: We had feedback from the program in the town of Maroantsetra and in the countryside (by the population). We are often told about the negative impacts or the consequence for the future of the population and their generation in its destruction...

Lemur Festival 18th edition 2022

Takes place in Matsotarihina, a village near Andranofotsy. Like every year, many people came to attend the 18th edition of the festival. The authorities of the city of Maroantsetra such as the Head of District, the collaborator of DREF Analanjirofo, the representative of all the ministries are represented. ZAGS Environmental Clubs and New Formula came to witness the celebration.

There are many activities in addition to the official speeches of the authorities and technicians in this field, such as: Exhibition (Photo and explanation), Question – answer (Radio Hook) on lemurs, Vakodrazana (Traditional dance), Poetry, Running, Motorcycle Race (Let the last be the first), Gony Race (bag of rice) and Dance Party organized by the village sportsman who collaborates with Antongil on the organization of the party.



Our conservation actions

MANAGING AND MAINTAINING THE FARANKARAINA FOREST

✓ Management of the Farankaraina forest

Since 2006 Antongil Conservation has been managing the Farankaraina forest which is located 15 km from Maroantsetra. This agreement was made between the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Antongil Conservation. We have devoted this time to the rational and sustainable management of this forest. In 2021, as every year, Antongil Conservation is still looking for more suitable methods to manage this forest.

These methods include: patrols, maintenance activities, reforestation, and encouraging villagers to participate in the management of the forest.

In 2022, the Antongil team mainly carried out patrols in the Farankaraina ecotourism area: in the forest bordering Vilongoza beach (in Navana bay), along the Thorel, Liane, Vazaha tracks, the main track and National Road 5.

The purpose of these patrols is to identify areas of major or minor pressure in the forest linked to human activities and to monitor lemur distribution areas.

NB: we remind you that the ruddy lemurs and the white-fronted lemurs are sympatric and their distribution areas are almost the same.

The results: We noticed pressures in the forest like a sixty round log, several feet from Ravinala, Ravimbontro, and Menevozona.

- **Maintain forest management**

The management of the forest is done in a complementary way between the COBAs and the Antongil Conservation team. On the one hand, the NGO looks for technical means and on the other hand, the COBAs do the practical work. Despite the conflict between the COBA of Andranofotsy and the NGO Antongil Conservation, we were still able to do the training and exchange with the COBA of Navana.

In 2022, the Antongil team focused on producing seedlings through the pilot nursery in Farankaraina and participating in regional and national reforestation programs.

- ➔ Production of 2,180 plants of several species: clove, hintsy, patchouli
- ➔ Production of 23,845 plants composed of 23 species
- ➔ Production of 4,521 plants composed of cloves and ramy
- ➔ Productions of 1,580 ramy plants
- ➔ Plantation of 2,000 clove trees, 35 hintsy, 25 lemon trees, 10 colas, 8 avocado trees, 45 bamboos, 55 palm trees, 3,400 patchoulis, 8 papaya trees and 35 hairy litchis.

The national reforestation program took place in Varingohitra, a village chosen by the population of Maroantsetra to carry out at the request of the Malagasy state as part of a national day of national reforestation in each District on the same day for the whole nation.



The Antongil team was able to clean up the ecotourism trails:

- Lucie track at 60%
- Ibis track at 80%
- Thorel track at 90%
- Liana track at 78%
- Vilongoza track at 90%
- Large Track at 75%

The Farankaraina ecotourism site also benefited from cleaning: sweeping of the courtyard, walkways, collection of plastic wreckage on the beach, clearing of the surface quickly next to the tent shelters, bungalows and nursery.

HEALTH, MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY

✓ **Faunistic and floristic inventories of the Farankaraina forest**

Following Bertin's retirement, the 5 park agents provide daily monitoring of the animals and the health of the forest in the tourist site. From year to year the health of the forest improves and this correlates with the increase in the number of animals demonstrated by the birth of the red-ruffed lemurs in 2021. The team therefore focused in 2022 on the monitoring of the 8 red-ruffed lemurs present in Farankaraina, jointly with the monitoring carried out by GERP & Impact Madagascar (separate report to come).

The GERP sent a biologist, Setra for a period of three months to the Farankaraina site to monitor the red-ruffed lemurs and Bera (AC field agent) accompanies him every day in the forest. We only noticed the 3 small red-ruffed lemurs but also their territory more and more near the camp.

Conclusion: Farankaraina is a favourable place for red-ruffed lemurs and Setra told us that we can add the number to the population because not only is the territory large but also the food is quite sufficient for them.

Reminder of translocation of red ruffed lemurs in the Farankaraina forest

For a long time, Antongil Conservation has been thinking about a project to reintroduce or translocate red varix in the Farankaraina forest to complete its restoration work. In collaboration with GERP and financed by several European partners, including Antongil's representative, the Doué la Fontaine Bioparc was able to carry out a feasibility study in 2014, both on the site where the lemurs were located and on the future release site. This step was a necessary prerequisite for the administrative procedures that could validate the research and conservation project by the Malagasy authorities.

In June 2018, the dream of all stakeholders came true: 2 red ruffed lemurs (1 male and 1 female) were translocated from the Amboloso forest to Farankaraina. They were released in August 2018 in their new ecosystem!

In 2019, the 2nd translocation could take place. This time 3 red ruffed lemurs could be brought to the Farankaraina forest: probably 2 males and 1 female. They could also be released in this forest after a two-month adaptation period in November.

Finally, in September 2021, the teams monitoring these 5 red ruffed lemurs found that the 2 females had given birth to 3 young. This is very good news for the species, the forest and the Malagasy communities!

In addition to the local Malagasy partners and institutions, other partners have also supported us in this project:



Our actions for local development

NGO SUPPORT ON DEVELOPMENT

✓ Development support

✓ Education :

- Meeting with teachers in the 10 villages around Farankaraina in order to offer them help at each school for their daily needs at school (sponge, chalk, blackboards, etc.)
- Distribution of school supplies in the 10 schools around Farankaraina



✓ Suivi sur les Barrages d'irrigation dans les villages concernés

✓ Participation financière au reboisement national à Vavatenina, un de 6 districts dans la région d'Analanjirifo.

✓ Finalisation de la construction de la maison pour le médecin d'Anjahana



✓ Participation pour construction d'un pont à Vinanivao Andranofotsy (Tonnelle)

Our actions for **eco-tourism**

« TROPICAL PARK OF FARANKARAINA »

This activity mainly concerns the former forestry station (150 ha) of the Farankaraina forest. Ecotourism allows the NGO to discover its activity as well as the richness of the forest's biodiversity to both Malagasy and foreigners. The site is both dedicated to training and tourist discoveries.

This activity generates income for the local farmers in the form of services (transport, guide, porter...) and sales of souvenirs and food. Located only 18 km from Maroantsetra, the ecotourism site of Farankaraina is accessible by sea, river and land (with four river crossings).

The ecotourism site of Farankaraina currently has 10 hiking trails, 5 bungalows equipped with shower and toilet, 3 tent shelters, a large dining room. Located by the sea, it offers two choices of beach: one in front of the camp and another on the other side of Navana.

- ✓ Shonia training in Tanà Digital Marketing
Collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism for more visibility of Farankaraina Park on the website search engine of the Ministry and the National Tourist Office; training to introduce information directly on their platforms
- ✓ National Fair (Tsenaben'ny Fizahantany) 5th edition in Tanà
 - An event which aims to revive the tourist sector of Madagascar, NGO Antongil conservation to participate and highlighted Farankaraina and its tourist assets and contacts of partners and tourists were made
 - There were 2,542 visitors who visited the stand of the NGO ANTONGIL CONSERVATION
 - We held a conference with tour operators for the promotion of Farankaraina Park and the general activities of the NGO.



- ✓ Monitoring of reception infrastructure in Farankaraina:
 - Rehabilitation of the roofs of the 5 bungalows in January
 - Rehabilitation of the bungalows: Door, window, change of door locks, renewal of paint on the shower, repair of 5 beds, purchase of 20 pairs of raft doors, plumbing.
 - Outdoor shower: Roof repair by changing sheet metal, painting the shower.



- ✓ Number of visitors
 - 8 environmental clubs: a total of 200 people for nature visits
 - Nationals: 95 national visitors (for picnics)
Foreigners: 29 people including Germans, French, Czech Republic, English, Swiss.
- ✓ Advertising panel: Renewal of the advertising panel at the entrance to the Anjahanambo bridge

Our other actions

- ✓ Participation in a workshop on the health and environment approach in the district of Maroantsetra for 10 days. The objective of this training is to meet the needs of the community while protecting the forest and the environment. Actor: Shonia
- ✓ Initiation course for 4 students from the University of Antananarivo and a student from Majunga.
- ✓ 7 students from Antananarivo doing their internship in Farankaraina, including 4 for lemur monitoring and 3 on animal science and biology for 2 months for each student.



Perspectives

Our projects continue to evolve and 2023 should be even richer! Of course, we continue our daily actions: awareness raising, monitoring and management of the Farankaraina forest, relations with the villagers and the authorities, development aid in the heart of the villages...

Let us note some of the actions to be carried out in 2023:

- Continue to create interpretation trails in the forest (small signs identifying trees, animals, etc.).
- Create a track to facilitate the observation of red-ruffed lemurs
- Organize the 19th edition of the Lemur Festival.
- Continue animal monitoring with GERP primatologists and organize the third translocation of red-ruffed lemurs

3 development projects:

- Continue to help parents of students for schools around the Farankaraina forest
- Rehabilitation of the Ankila micro-dam (Navana)
- Supporting the Andranofotsy bridge

CONTACTS

Antongil Conservation

Thorel Alexis : Coordinateur général

Tél : + 261 32 40 391 33 - Email : thorelalexis@yahoo.fr

BP 63 Maroantsetra 512, Madagascar

BIOPARC Conservation

Pierre Gay : Président

Tatiana Beuchat : Chargée de conservation in situ

Tél : + 33 (0)6 60 72 21 85 - Email : tbeuchat@bioparc-zoo.fr

Doué-la-Fontaine – 49700 Doué-en-Anjou, France

Rapport corédigé avec le Bioparc

