



# SMALL INITIATIVES FOR A FULL-SCALE PROGRAM





# SMALL PROJECTS FOR BIG CHALLENGES: THE SMALL-SCALE INITIATIVES PROGRAM

SINCE 2006, THE FRENCH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (FGEF) PROGRAM CALLED SMALL-SCALE INITIATIVES PROGRAM (SSIP) HAS SUPPORTED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE BY FINANCING SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

## WHY

### IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA?

The SSIP focuses on Sub-Saharan African countries, included Madagascar, because of their extraordinary but threatened biodiversity, mainly due to extreme poverty.

In these countries, livelihoods rely on ecosystem-based services, whereas today 60% of them are degraded. In those regions, natural resources can then be considered a sort of “life insurance” for communities and must be protected: that is why the SSIP supports initiatives reconciling development and conservation to build new models of sustainable development.

### CIVIL SOCIETY?

In Sub-Saharan Africa, especially in French-speaking countries, the non-governmental organizations are poorly structured and the political and technical resources allocated to major conservation issues are too low.

Anchored in the local socio-economic and cultural reality, the civil society promotes participatory approaches and implements actions in the field. It brings innovative solutions implemented through communities themselves.

### SMALL PROJECTS?

Because funds are distributed locally, small grants can be more efficient than large-scale projects' investments in terms of the impact on conservation and local development.

In addition, SSIP grants can boost the association's reputation and credibility and often have a leverage effect towards more significant funds.

## SSIP KEY FIGURES

In the last 7 years, the SSIP allowed the implementation of **more than 100 projects in 25 countries**, with a further 50 projects being processed. **A € 5.1 M total**, nearly half the total budget of all these projects, has been provided to civil society by the FGEF.





## THE IUCN FRENCH COMMITTEE

Since 1992, the IUCN French Committee is the network of the organizations and experts of the International Union for Conservation of Nature in France.

It serves as the central organization for expertise, dialogue and action to respond to the challenges of biodiversity in France and abroad.

[www.uicn.fr](http://www.uicn.fr)

## THE FRENCH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (FGEF) (LE FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL)

The French Global Environment Facility is a bilateral public fund that was set up in 1994 by the French government. Its purpose is to provide co-funding for projects with a strong environmental component in developing countries. These funds, provided as a grant, go to pilot projects implemented to reconcile economic development and environmental issues in beneficiary countries.

[www.ffem.fr](http://www.ffem.fr)





# PROJECTS MAP



## SSIP TOPICS

- Conservation of Threatened Species
- Ecosystems Conservation / Protected Areas Establishment
- Natural Resources Marketing / Community Forestry
- Man / Wildlife conflicts
- Ecotourism
- Environmental Education
- Fight against Climate Change



# A STRONG ALLIANCE FORGED BETWEEN THE FGEF AND IUCN DEDICATED TO THE AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY

THE FRENCH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY RELIES ON THE **INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE** THROUGH ITS **FRENCH COMMITTEE** AND ITS **CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA PROGRAM** TO IMPLEMENT THE SMALL-SCALE INITIATIVES PROGRAM.

**THE IUCN FRENCH COMMITTEE** is coordinating the SSIP since 2007. It is responsible for **selecting, monitoring, and evaluating** the projects supported.

The projects are reviewed through the active mobilization of the IUCN network of experts and development professionals as well as the representatives abroad of the French Development Agency and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Strategic conservation planning and biodiversity assessment tools are also used to rank the priority issues of the projects.

**IUCN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA PROGRAM (PACO: PROGRAMME AFRIQUE CENTRALE ET OCCIDENTALE)** is a SSIP technical partner and it helps organizations reinforcing their capacity building in order to apply for SSIP funds.

PACO also organizes regional and national fora for NGOs and other partners involved in conservation issues, to share best practices and strengthen the capacity of NGOs to influence environmental policies in their countries.

## SOME TESTIMONIALS FROM SSIP BENEFICIARIES

### **GWLADIS MAGAYA FROM IBONGA:**

« The project allowed us to acquire experience (...) in developing information, education and communication tools, enabling us to become the national reference to work with rural communities. After the SSIP project, we were increasingly asked to provide technical assistance on environmental education and on the integration of communities into sustainable conservation around national parks. »

### **YVES-LANDRY MOUKETOU FROM THE MAISON DU TOURISME ET DE LA NATURE DU GABON:**

« Thanks to SSIP, our first funding, we were able to obtain more funding for our projects from other donors. »

### **PHILIPPE SOUNGUET FROM AVENTURES SANS FRONTIÈRES:**

« SSIP funding contributed to strengthening the capacity of our technicians to monitor sea turtles and follow observation rules; moreover, it also enabled us to improve staff and financial management capabilities. »

### **CHARLIE GOUGH FROM BLUE VENTURES:**

« The SSIP helped us to promote our actions more widely thanks to the documentation that it produced and to associated partners, such as 'TV5 Monde Production'. »



## SSIP STATUS REPORT

The external evaluations of the program demonstrated its success and indicated that 70% of the projects showed good to excellent results, with a significant impact on the field.

Of 72 projects completed to date, dense forests ecosystems of the Congo Basin and Madagascar, followed by Western Africa savannahs and forests, benefitted the most from the Small-Scale Initiatives Program. A significant number of projects also concerned wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites).

The SSIP helped improve the management of 12 protected areas (National Parks, nature reserves etc.) covering 800,000 hectares, and the creation of 12 new protected areas covering 160,000 hectares. 5 others are being established to protect a further 23,000 hectares.

Several projects enabled to improve the protection of threatened species such as Lowland and Mountain Gorillas, as well as 5 species of sea turtles living in Central Africa.

Furthermore, the SSIP has reached 40,000 direct beneficiaries, including 3,500 people who received professional training by NGOs. The projects provided a regular source of income for 1,350 people in 45 economic sectors, particularly ecotourism and the forest products marketing and sale. By promoting better sustainable management of their natural resources, the SSIP has contributed to improve the livelihoods of nearly one million people.

### THE IUCN FRENCH COMMITTEE

26, rue Geoffroy Saint Hilaire  
75005 Paris  
FRANCE

Tel. +33 (0) 1 47 07 78 58  
uicn@uicn.fr

[www.uicn.fr](http://www.uicn.fr)

### FRENCH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Agence française de Développement  
5, rue Roland Barthes, 75598 Paris Cedex 12  
FRANCE

Tel. +33 (0) 1 53 44 42 42  
Fax +33 (0) 1 53 44 32 48  
ffem@afd.fr

[www.ffem.fr](http://www.ffem.fr)







## ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVATION / PROTECTED AREAS ESTABLISHMENT

### MANAGING LAKE TANGANYIKA SHORES WITH THE BURUNDIAN FISHERMEN

The Rusizi Game Reserve (5000 hectares), on the Lake Tanganyika, is a natural area of exceptional value (1,000 plant species including an endemic palm tree *Hyphaena benguelensis*, 18 large mammals and 130 birds, predominantly migratory), but fragile and threatened by the proliferation of invasive species such as the water hyacinth and *Lantana camara*. All of big fish species have been decimated. Food security is therefore a critical issue in this zone, home to many refugees displaced by conflicts.

L'Association Burundaise pour la Protection des Oiseaux rallies 300 local fishermen in order to develop the sustainable management of fish stocks and of terrestrial ecosystems with the INECN (Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature), the manager of the reserve. As an example, a code of good practices for fishing will be established.

Ecological restoration activities have also been undertaken with the planting of aquatic reeds over 1 km of the estuary of the Rusizi River and 4 km of the lake shores, in order to recreate spawning areas for fish. 100,000 acacia plants have been planted on the Game Reserve's delta to restore the forest cover. Pilot tests to fight against the *Lantana camara* have been also set up.

At the same time, ABO is initiating activities which generate alternative income (fish farms, small-scale livestock farming) to reduce pressure on fish stocks.

➤ ABO is the BirdLife International partner in Burundi.



#### ABO

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€100,000  
(€50,000 from FGEF)

Dieudonné BIZIMANA  
aboburundi@yahoo.fr

abo-conservation-bi.org

## NATURAL RESOURCES MARKETING / COMMUNITY FORESTRY

### GREENING THE SAVANNAH FOR MEN AND NATURE

In Burkina Faso, the deforestation rate (clearing land for agriculture and wood collection) is very high, which results in significant soil degradation. In addition, within the remaining forested areas, useful, edible and medicinal plant species are becoming increasingly rare: this seriously jeopardizes the food security of the inhabitants of Burkina Faso.

New Tree tested a simple method which consists in supporting farmers in reforesting damaged agricultural areas: these plots are fenced off to protect them from wandering animals and firewalls are built against bushfires. The plot boundaries are clearly established in public records, in accordance with both customary and state laws; within each plot, the vegetation regenerates naturally, with a portion left for economic activities (bee-keeping, fodder production).

This project covers 30 hectares of land managed by 10 pilot farmers. The natural regeneration plan succeeded and restored biodiversity in the test-plots with more than 45 new plant species growing in the newly available areas.

To ensure the sustainability of these activities, NEW TREE wants to sell the carbon captured by the regenerating trees (REDD+) on the carbon credit market.

➤ Women traditionally have no land rights, but with New Tree they can now begin to farm in areas that were unreachable before.



#### BURKINA FASO

#### NEW TREE

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€90,075  
(€43,100 from FGEF)

Franziska KAGUEMBEGA  
info@newtree.ch

newtree.org/f/





## NATURAL RESOURCES MARKETING / COMMUNITY FORESTRY

### GIVING LOCAL AUTHORITIES THE RIGHT TO MANAGE PUBLIC FORESTS TO BETTER CONSERVE THEM

The Fatick Region of Senegal is located in the groundnut production area 150 km South East of Dakar. The region has been subjected to decades of intense deforestation and to the encroachment of groundnut plantations to meet the food needs of an ever-increasing population (90 inhabitants / km<sup>2</sup>).

The forest clearing, combined with other factors (intensive wood, fruit and medicinal plant harvesting), is one of the driving factors of the degradation of the savannahs, gallery forests and mangroves with, however, a few remaining well preserved patches of forests.

Since 2010, the FATICK region and the State Services have undertaken an ambitious campaign to transfer the management of 7,500 ha of forest to rural communities every year. The project aims to support this regional programme by building future managers skills and capacities.

15,000 hectares of forests have been transferred to 10 rural communities rallying a network of local volunteers to lead the technical part of the operation.

The project ensures the training of elected representatives through community and regional environmental commissions, as well as the training of forest management facilitators within the communities.

➤ A solid and long standing partnership links the Fatick Region with the Poitou Charentes region : at the heart of this cooperation program, the French region supports the development of local agriculture (market gardening and livestock farming) and forest management, together with SSIP.



#### SENEGAL

#### FATICK REGION

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€74,476

(€24,000 from FGEF)

**Mamadou Ndong TOURE**

ndongtoure@gmail.com

regionfatick.org



## ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVATION / PROTECTED AREAS ESTABLISHMENT

### A SANCTUARY TO PROTECT THE LAST CROSS RIVER GORILLAS

With only 300 individuals left on the planet located in Western Cameroon, the Cross River Gorilla is on the verge of extinction. These Great Apes are threatened by poaching for bush meat, land conversion and the genetic isolation created by forest fragmentation.

Bechati-Lebialem forest, located in the highlands, is home to 35 Cross River Gorillas in a 15,000 hectare area and securing the last remaining habitats of these gorillas has become a heritage issue of international concern. The surrounding local populations, mostly living below the poverty line, agreed to stop poaching provided they have access to alternative income.

ERuDeF is undertaking the administrative procedures for the official gazette of the forest as a community wildlife sanctuary and monitors the primate populations by converting poachers into eco-guards. The population benefits from the economic and social development by the creation of a village revolving-fund for small-scale farming, bee-keeping and the sustainable farming of palm-oil obtained from wild palm trees. Educational sessions on the environment are provided in village schools.

In the long term, the project will allow the Sanctuary to be linked to the Takamanda National Park and Mone Forest Reserve, which are home to other groups of Cross River gorillas, thus encouraging the genetic mixing of the populations.

➤ The future Sanctuary is also a habitat for approximately 150 chimpanzees from East Nigeria (*Pan troglodytes vellerosus*), a species under threat of extinction, whose global population is less than 5,000.



#### CAMEROON

#### ERUDEF

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€103,983

(€40,000 from FGEF)

**Louis NKEMBI**

lnkembi@yahoo.com

erudefconservation.org





## ECOTOURISM

### GIVING SUSTAINABLE WHALE-WATCHING A NATIONAL SCOPE

This project is a follow up to a SSIP grant in 2006 to the French association MEGAPTERA, which ended in the creation of a Madagascan association, CETAMADA, responsible for developing whale watching on the island of Sainte Marie.

Pursuing its initial work, CETAMADA is extending its activities to the national level by supporting the development and promotion of sustainable Madagascan whale ecotourism which will benefit many organizations and local communities (starting with the towns of Tuléar and Nosy be).

New local operators are trained in responsible whale watching according to a code of good practice and security at sea in order to disturb the marine mammals as less as possible.

In addition, Madagascan students, assisted by European eco-volunteers, are trained in whale monitoring in order to develop these skills at the national level. Two data collection campaigns have been put in place by CETAMADA's team of scientists : students and volunteers identify these cetaceans by their tail fins and fill in an online database for regional use (South Africa, Reunion, Mayotte, etc.). Population genetics are also studied by sampling whales' skin.

➤ A joint effort with Institut Pasteur de Madagascar allow to collect data on cetacean bacteriology. Thanks to poles equipped with Petri dish, researchers "capture" the whale's blow to collect bacteria and viruses of the whales' airways.



#### MADAGASCAR

#### CETAMADA

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€80,800

(€45.000 from FGEF)

Henry BELLON

president@cetamada.org

cetamada.com



## ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVATION / PROTECTED AREAS ESTABLISHMENT

### LIVING WITH HIPPOS

The project is part of the "Northeast Lake Tanganyika Landscape Protection" programme, a strategic environmental conservation programme for the urban and rural areas of the Greater Bujumbura. This RAMSAR site is home to a population of hippos that play a key role in maintaining the structural elements and functions of the lake ecosystem, the riparian forest, the savannahs and neighbouring grasslands.

Action Ceinture Verte pour l'Environnement (ACVE) is very active in Burundi in environment advocacy, watersheds and wetlands management, green spaces planning and agroforestry.

The aim of this conservation project is to provide a comprehensive inventory of hippos and to carry out an ecological monitoring survey. At least 3 "sensitive dispersal zones" along the lake's shores will be protected and rehabilitated in order to increase and secure the surface area of these animals' habitat. To reduce human/wildlife conflicts in these areas, buffer zones are set up and alternative income activities are developed for the inhabitants. At the same time, awareness-raising initiatives stressing the environmental value of hippos are also implemented all along the project.

➤ The Northeast Lake Tanganyika Landscape Protection programme is a technical partnership between ACVE, the Association Burundaise de protection des Oiseaux (ABO) also granted by SSIP, the Institut National de l'Environnement et de Conservation de la Nature (INECN), and the Lake Tanganyika Authority (set up by the United Nations Development Program, UNDP).



#### BURUNDI

#### ACVE

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€125,806

(€49.000 from FGEF)

Albert MBONERANE

duteribiti@yahoo.fr





© B. Mathévon

## FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

### TURNING URBAN WASTE INTO COMPOST TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The town of Beira in Mozambique has more than 600,000 inhabitants who produce about 300,000 tons of waste annually; the town's refuse services collect about 65% of that waste, roughly 195,000 tons.

Terra Nova, a company created in 2009, decided to process and compost a part of this waste. To ensure business sustainability, the company sells the compost produced via the aerobic fermentation of organic waste, thus obtaining funding via carbon credits.

Indeed, methane emissions (a powerful greenhouse gas) commonly resulting from the anaerobic fermentation are avoided by returning/oxygenating the compost whilst fermenting; the carbon not emitted/sequestered can then be sold on the carbon credits market.

The company also generates employment opportunities, mostly for women.

Terra Nova should manage to recycle 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> of wet waste per month into approximately 200 tons of compost. Technical support is provided by the French association Gevalor, also a SSIP granted NGO. A Project Design Document (PDD) complying with the Gold Standard eco-label has been submitted for carbon credits. Over the next 10 years, the project should prevent approximately 238,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere.

➤ *Terra Nova should be a part of AfriCompost (the GoodPlanet-Gevalor consortium co-financed by the French Development Agency and FGEF) whose goal is to develop 6 African waste operational units to produce compost and sell carbon credits, based on the previous experiences from successful SSIP projects.*



#### MOZAMBIQUE

#### TERRA NOVA

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€66,900

(€50,000 from FGEF)

Flore ROURA

terranova.beira@gmail.com

## ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVATION / PROTECTED AREAS ESTABLISHMENT

### BUILDING A PROTECTED MARINE AREAS NETWORK WITH THE VEZO FISHERMEN

The huge lagoon of Southwest Madagascar, with a barrier reef located over 40 km from the coast, supplies with fish the whole region, especially the Vezo fishermen, and supports industrial shrimp fishing for export. In addition to severe degradation due to acute climate changes in the Indian Ocean, the coral reefs are subject to many threats.

Since 2004, the Blue Ventures association has been working in partnership with local communities to create a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). In 2007 the association won the United Nations Equator Prize due to its capacity to involve communities of fishermen in the sustainable and efficient management of fish stocks.

The purpose of this project, like a previous SSIP implemented at Velondriake, a neighbouring village, is to create a regional research centre to determine the current state of fishing resources and marines ecosystems (sea grass, mangroves, reefs), but also to identify and understand the socio-economic relationships between communities and the natural habitat.

Eventually, a management plan for future Marine Protected Areas will be drawn up. It will be clearly defined, participative, shared, environment-friendly and in line with the survival of the communities.

The MPAs thus created will be the marine extension of the Kirindy-Mite National Park, managed by the Madagascar National Parks organization.

➤ *Since 2005, Blue Ventures has won over 17 awards in recognition of its environmental leadership and ecotourism development activities.*



#### MADAGASCAR

#### BLUE VENTURES

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€192,120

(€50,000 from FGEF)

Charlie GOUGH

charlie@blueventures.org

blueventures.org





## FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

### AGRO-ECOLOGY COPING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

ENDA has been involved in activities promoting healthy and sustainable farming for years. Dealing with climate change, the NGO promotes alternative agro-ecological techniques based on the rational use of water and renewable energies and on the respect for natural resources in the Niayes areas, the main market gardening areas in Senegal.

Due to increasingly severe droughts and insufficient control over watering costs and methods, local populations face very low crop yield and must deal with soil erosion due to inappropriate watering and cultivation techniques.

Pilot "field schools" have been created as places as learning place for farmers, scientists, students and teachers. A system of water pumping stations with wind and/or hybrid sun and wind-powered motor-driven pumps has been installed in every field school and drip irrigation systems have been set up in every field.

Furthermore, to ensure the system's sustainability and autonomy, ENDA trains local technicians to locally manufacture wind turbines.

➤ *The model tested by ENDA is really efficient : it enables farmers to reduce their water consumption up to 50%, to remove their dependence on fossil energy and increase the crop yield by 20%.*



SENEGAL

#### ENDA

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€71,500  
(€35,000 from FGEF)

Mariam SOW  
pronat@endatiersmonde.org  
endapronat.org



## ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVATION / PROTECTED AREAS ESTABLISHMENT

### COMMUNITY-BASED MANAGEMENT, THE FUTURE OF MADAGASCAR'S PROTECTED AREAS

Voakajy runs this project in the heart of dense rainforests of Eastern Madagascar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. 6000 ha of this semi-montane forest have been smashed by runaway deforestation linked to slash-and-burn farming and over-logging.

The project's purpose is to build the capacity of eight COBA (the grassroots, community based organizations in Madagascar) in managing natural resources and setting up new protected areas (NPAs).

Based on plant and wildlife species inventories, Voakajy is able to assess forest biodiversity and define an appropriate conservation strategy. The association also created plant nurseries and planted 75,000 fast-growing trees in areas especially designated for reforestation (outside protected areas) to provide villagers with firewood.

Starting from a zoning plan and the results of a socio-economic study, a management plan was defined on a participatory method and its technical requirements were drawn up for and with each COBA. A set of *Dina* (rules and sanctions set by traditional laws) was developed and approved by the Regional Court along with all stakeholders.

Besides, the project helps COBA to manage their natural resources and to make clear land allocations while strongly protecting the better conserved zones.

➤ *During recent reptiles' inventories carried out in a NPA, a new species of chameleon was discovered: *Caluma tarzan*. The name comes from the village of Tarzan, rather than recalling the acrobatic qualities or vocal talents of the reptile.*



MADAGASCAR

#### VOAKAJY

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€102,000  
(€50,000 from FGEF)

Daudet ANDRIAFIDISON  
andriafidison@moov.mg  
madagasikara-voakajy.org





## MAN / WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

### USING SISAL TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MAN AND WILDLIFE

The project is based in the savannah on the fringe of the Akagera National Park in Northeast Rwanda. The park (108,500 ha) is host to a significant plant (about 100 species) and animal species diversity (90 mammals, 530 birds, 23 reptiles).

Since 1960, the park lost 55% of its surface area due to agricultural activities. The lack of boundaries makes the situation worse: wildlife, trapped to the East by marshes and swamps, enters the park from the Western limits, creating conflicts with the farmers and shepherds because it destroys the plantations and attacks the herd. In addition, the people can enter the park and poach with impunity.

To solve these problems, with the help of 160 local families, the project seeks to clearly mark 24 km of borders by installing a very dense hedge of 200,000 sisal plants (over 10 ha), thus decreasing the number of forays into the park.

The planted sisal will also provide interesting economic opportunities through its transformation into handicrafts or household items (strings, baskets, mats, handbags...), led by 3 women co-op.

At the same time, environmental education activities are organised in the primary and secondary schools close to the park, including the establishment of 6 environmental clubs.

Today, due to years of poaching, there is only one black rhino left in the Akagera National Park.



#### RECOR

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€56,684  
(€40,000 from FGEF)

Jean-Christostome SEHENE  
jcsehene@rwandaenvironment.org  
rwandaenvironment.org

## NATURAL RESOURCES MARKETING / COMMUNITY FORESTRY

### MARKETING NATURAL PRODUCTS IN BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso, the ZOVIC (Zones Villageoises d'Intérêt Cynégétique, village areas for small game hunting) have been created within villages to preserve the natural habitat whilst generating income from plant and animal biodiversity.

AFAUDEB works with the communities of Fada N'Gourma and Matiakoali (15 villages home to 300 families) located on the fringe of protected areas where clearing, uncontrolled bushfires and other threats undermine the local ecosystem. The NGO specifically supports the village hunting zones of Boumoana and Sadpenga in their development process and encourage the establishment of two new ZOVICs.

All the ZOVICs develop, market and sale natural products based on local resources: honey, balanites aegyptica oil and neem oil, shea butter, oil-based soaps, etc.. These sectors employ a large number of women ; goods and farm products are sold in three shops held by AFAUDEB in Fada and in Ouagadougou supermarkets.

In addition to law enforcement and ecosystem restoration activities, AFAUDEB monitors wildlife in the village hunting zones where small scale hunting is allowed on certain conditions. The fees collected from foreign hunters (the majority) benefit the ZOVIC. Part of the preys' meat coming from the ZOVIC is distributed to the surrounding villages.

Given the success of these initiatives, AFAUDEB is now a part of the 'Conservation Territories' project, led by IUCN Central and West Africa Programme and funded by FGEF, the goal being to strengthen, capitalize and share experiences on 7 efficient projects focusing on outstanding natural areas management.



#### AFAUDEB

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€65,500  
(€40,000 from FGEF)

Alexis KABORE  
alexis@adap.ch  
afaudeb.org





## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

### 17,500 YOUNG MALAGASY STUDENTS TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THE RANOMAFANA FOREST CORRIDOR

Since 1992, under its environmental education programme, WWF Madagascar developed a network of 650 environmental clubs established in primary and secondary schools.

The project focuses on 31 Vintsy clubs made up of 17,500 students coming from the towns and villages of the forest Corridor of "Ranomafana – Ivohibe – Vondrozo – Midongy", where the dense rainforest is quite well conserved despite the pressures of tavy (slash-and-burn farming).

WWF wants to make a legal entity out of a network of Vintsy clubs established within and near the Corridor, in order to make young people more responsible and enhance their place and role within civil society involved in environment issues.

The network would benefit from information sharing between members; moreover, the clubs' supervisors are trained in facilitation, communication and interview techniques with the help of related material and equipment (young reporters' kit).

In the schools, each club undertakes a mini conservation project which enables students to learn the basics of project design and management.

➤ The Vintsy clubs' role includes the creation of the environmental education manuals for the Madagascar's official teaching programme and the publication of the country's N°1 environmental magazine.

## CONSERVATION OF THREATENED SPECIES

### SARAMBWE, THE FORGOTTEN LITTLE FOREST

The Sarambwe Reserve, located in the Democratic Republic of Congo, is contiguous to the "Bwindi Impenetrable National Park" in Uganda, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The mountain forests of Sarambwe cover 950 hectares, and are remarkably well conserved : they are home to buffalos, antelopes, hippos, elephants and shelter one of the last remaining populations of mountain gorilla. However they are threatened by poachers, illegal logging and forays of armed rebel groups.

Despite the status of 'Special Reserve with Independent Status' obtained in 2002, the borders of the reserve are poorly marked. The Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature's staff (ICCN : Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) appointed to the reserve works in particularly unsafe conditions and doesn't have enough means to secure the area.

To improve gorilla protection and wildlife biodiversity in general, VONA seeks to increase the resources of the Institute's officials (by installing surveillance equipment and conducting patrols) and to improve their skills in eco-tourism and biodiversity monitoring.

The borders of the reserve have been clearly marked on the fields edges to give the local communities a better understanding of the protected areas. 100,000 native trees are planted to meet the community's needs in firewood.

➤ The Sarambwe Reserve really benefited from MONUSCO (Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilité du Congo), the United Nations Mission for Stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo because security has been improved and poachers have been dissuaded from entering the Reserve.

#### MADAGASCAR



#### CLUB VINTSY-WWF

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€99,200  
(€42,000 from FGEF)

Rachele SENN  
rsenn@wwf.mg  
wwf.mg

#### DRC



#### VONA

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€83,635  
(€20,000 from FGEF)

Claude SIKUBWABO  
vonaong@yahoo.fr



## NATURAL RESOURCES MARKETING / COMMUNITY FORESTRY

### LEGALIZING FOREST PRODUCTS EXPLOITATION TO BETTER MANAGE THEM

In Cameroon the traditional and informal harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFP) (djanssang, wild mango, jujube, pepper, Moabi seeds and oil) can hardly reach local or export markets. The administrative requirements connected with NTFP harvesting licences are restrictive, so that the trend is to be in breach of the law.

The project of the Association des Communes Forestières du Cameroun consists in legalizing the NTFP harvest and improving their marketing in 9 production areas (directly affecting about 2,000 people).

In the Eastern Region, ACFCam intends to expand and reorganize the market information system (SIM: Système d'Information des Marchés) created in 2009 to set up a network of all the stakeholders involved in NTFP and to facilitate their marketing by centralizing data on supply and demand (products, quantity, price, location).

The NTFP producers' organizations can then improve the fruit and seed collection and conservation methods thus forgoing habits and techniques with a negative impact on forest biodiversity. Incomes coming from the sale of these products benefit the populations.

➤ Among the NTFP marketed by the project, djanssang is very much in demand in local diet because of its high protein content and its anti-oxidant, low cholesterol, cosmetic and fertilizing properties.



CAMEROON

#### ACF CAM

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€64,862

(€32,300 from FGEF)

Baudelaire KEMAJOU

ctfccameroun@yahoo.com

foretcommunale-cameroun.org



## CONSERVATION OF THREATENED SPECIES

### MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF PROTECTING SEA TURTLES

Five of the world's seven species of sea turtles live on the Congolese waters, in particular the Leatherback sea turtle (an endangered species) and the Olive Ridley sea turtle. The hunting of females during the nesting season and by-catches in both local and industrial fishing nets have a dreadful impact on their populations.

RENATURA is a Congolese conservation NGO which has succeeded in being accepted by the inhabitants. Its programme consists in raising awareness in schools and communities, compensating the fishermen for damage done to their nets by turtles by-catches in exchange for their freedom and developing income activities with local populations such as eco-tourism. The SSIP supports the creation of an eco-lodge designed for tourists eager to observe the turtles with the NGO ; visitor fees are paid for the compensation of the fishermen. A part of the profit is invested in a community fund which pays for projects of local community services (medication, teaching material).

Scientific monitoring during the nesting season is carried out by patrol officers trained within the local communities and data shared with the IUCN global network of sea turtle specialists.

Since 2000, turtle poaching in Congo has been reduced by 90% due to the constant presence of the RENATURA patrols.

➤ RENATURA leads a network of actors in Central Africa involved in the conservation of sea turtles known as RASTOMA. The network pools the data collected by all its members, thus modelling the dynamics of the turtle populations on a regional scale.



CONGO

#### RENATURA CONGO

##### PROJECT BUDGET:

€106,000

(€40,000 from FGEF)

Nathalie BRÉHERET

natbreheret@yahoo.fr

renatura.org