

## Case 9: M A D A G A S C A R

### Community Management of Anja/Gestion Communautaire d'Anja

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AnjaMiray Association was established in 1999 in response to the degradation and clearing of local forests, the sedimentation of water resources, and the loss of wildlife such as ring-tailed lemurs, chameleons and tropical birds. The Association operates a 30-hectare community forest reserve in the Haute Matsiatra region of Madagascar.

The community has established an ecotourism initiative which funds community works projects – schools, health clinics and environmental education – and ongoing conservation activities. Ecotourism has also provided a revenue stream for alternative livelihood projects such as fish farming and tree nurseries. The Association has provided a leading model of community-based forest management in the country.

Implementing Organization	AnjaMiray Association, 340 members (EQUATOR PRIZE WINNER in 2012) Add : BP 29, Ambalavao, Commune Iarintsena, Région Haute Matsiatra 303, Madagascar Email : victorsrahaovalahy@gmail.com WEB URL : <a href="http://anjacommunityreserve.netai.net/">http://anjacommunityreserve.netai.net/</a>
Funding Source	Membership fee, UNDP-implemented GEF-Small Grants Programme (SGP)
Implementing Period	2001 – to date
Project site	Ambalavao Tsienimparihy, Haute Matsiatra region, Fianarantsoa province

**Key Words:** Development, Conservation, ecotourism, use



The landscape of Anja:

The province of Fianarantsoa, where the rural town of Anja is, is known for its tall mountains and its rich biodiversity



Biodiversity:

Ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*)

Anja is one local habitat of the *Lemur catta*.

### Background of the Project

Among the secondary activities, villagers living near the site of Anja practiced logging for several years. Loss of vegetation cover has subsequently led to a drying up of springs, with water being an essential element in the activities of the community. As predominantly subsistence farmers, the local community depended on water to irrigate crops and flood the rice paddies. The destruction of habitat was particularly devastating to the local lemur population, as their food sources disappeared. Adding to their plight, lemurs were hunted when people sought to supplement poor diets because of food shortages. Having become aware of the importance of site planning and nature conservation, the villagers opted for the enhancement of the site through ecotourism by their own initiative. They began a collective campaign to reforest the area with native tree species, educate resident communities about the necessity of environmental protection, and develop the area's forests as an ecotourism destination.

### Overall Goal and Objectives of the Project

**Goal:** Reconciling conservation and community development to attend these objectives:

**Objective 1:** Availability of resources for the survey of the local community

**Objective 2:** Regulatory support from the government and other partner in term of technical and finance

**Objective 3:** Effective governance to ensure that resources are managed in a sustainable manner

**Objective 4:** Effective participation of the local community

**Objective 5:** Enhancement of capacity of the local community to manage the resources

**Objective 6:** Meeting local needs

**Objective 7:** Adaptive management

**Objective 8:** Accommodating multiple stakeholders' interests

### Major Activities

✓ **Ecotourism**

The Anja Community Reserve offers visitors two trails of varying difficulty. Anja has many potentialities, an exceptionally diverse landscape (a dense dry forest flap, majestic granite domes, magnificent views, cultural sites, caves). A group of Ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*) is part of the site's attractions. The access is very easy because it is close to the national road. The reception facilities are already in place (guide, circuits, and signs). The development of the site of about 60 ha of which 13 ha of forest is ensured by the community itself. Approximately 2,000 visitors a year pass (In 2011, AnjaMiray received 12,000 visitors and generated USD 45,000 for the association. Anja Community Reserve is one of the most visited community-managed forest and ecotourism sites in Madagascar)

✓ **Investing in the community**

To offset the need for fuel from the forest, the association has established eucalyptus (kininina in Malagasy) tree nurseries in the communities to provide sustainable sources of fuel wood. More than 50% of association members are women. The association provided training to promote a handicraft industry marketed to tourists

✓ **Sustainable agriculture and fish farming generate significant revenues**

4 tons of royal carp per year at 3000 Ar per kilo.

✓ **Forest patrols and low-impact harvesting**

### **Direct Outputs from the Project**

✓ **Biodiversity:**

Reforestation and wildlife conservation and ecosystem restoration

✓ **Socioeconomic:**

Increase income source from income-generating activities especially by setting up small shops whose tourists are the main customers. Investing revenues in conservation and community (The flourishing ecotourism operation has allowed the AnjaMiray Association to fund numerous economic development projects within the community such as the investment made in local education, with revenues used for the construction of schoolhouses, teacher wages, and subsidizing school fees for orphaned children; a reserve fund was also established to assist the community with unforeseen events – in effect, a local social safety-net), Improved agricultural productivity and food security

✓ **Policy**

The group has sought to share its experience with other groups in the country and has proven extremely successful in spreading its message and expanding its reach in environmental conservation and advocacy

### **Indirect Impact of the Project**

✓ **Replication**

Transferring best practice community-to-community. In May 2012, Anja was the site for creation of TAFO MIHAAVO (the national network of local communities for natural resource management)

### **Intervention of Central/Local Government and other stakeholders**

In 1996, in an effort to stem deforestation, the national government enacted land management legislation that would allow communities to manage local natural resources. The legislation – which proposed using a signed contract with the community as the legal basis of communal land management – first needed to be adapted to local Malagasy culture. The national forest service works with the association to raise funds and provide outreach to families who had been farming on public land. In recognition of this groundswell of local conservation action, the Anja forest was designated a community-managed reserve by the Government of Madagascar in 1999.

### **Challenges and limitations of good practice implementation**

✓ Insecurity instead of the “dahalo”

✓ Funding

✓ Intellectual level of the local community that no permit to use complicated tools, technology that are required

### **Way Forward**

The association is financially self-sustainable. Importantly, it is not entirely dependent on tourism for its financial security and sustainability. In 2011, to celebrate its tenth anniversary, the association launched a new development plan for the next ten years with a view to improving local living conditions and the overall environmental health of the reserve. The main goal of the new development plan is to ensure good governance and the sustainable management of forested areas based on: i) respect for the rule of law; ii) the efficiency of the

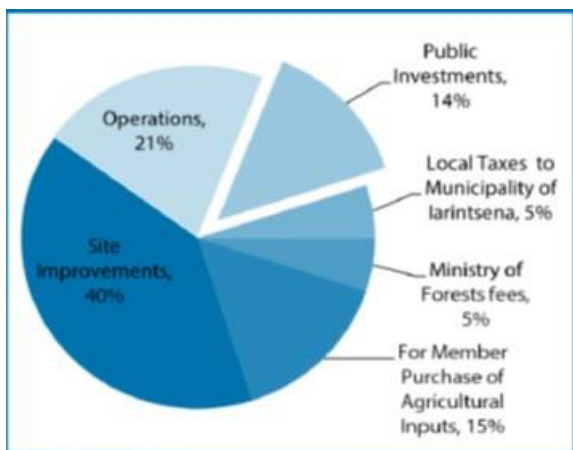
existing organizational structure; iii) the effective participation of each structural entity; iv) the healthy management of all resources (renewable and otherwise); and v) the prevention of corruption and adherence to transparency.

**Reference Documents/Materials**

- ✓ AnjaMiray Association Equator Initiative profile page:  
[http://equatorinitiative.org/index.php?option=com\\_winners&view=winner\\_detail&id=32&Itemid=683](http://equatorinitiative.org/index.php?option=com_winners&view=winner_detail&id=32&Itemid=683)
- ✓ AnjaMiray Association website:  
<http://anjacommunityreserve.netai.net/>
- ✓ Presentation on AnjaMiray Association (PowerPoint):  
[http://equatorinitiative.org/images/stories/Community\\_Aldeia/Day\\_2/Madagascar\\_Anja\\_Miray.pdf](http://equatorinitiative.org/images/stories/Community_Aldeia/Day_2/Madagascar_Anja_Miray.pdf)

**Resource Persons**

Name	Affiliation	email
Victor Rahaovalahy	AnjaMiray Association	victorsrahaovalahy@gmail.com



Source: Anja Miray



Uses of revenue from ecotourism as decided by General Assembly:

The General Assembly votes on each disbursement of funds, which range from USD 150-250 for each individual 'crisis' and are executed by the Executive Board.

Handicraft:

In a deliberate strategy to empower women, the association has funded the purchase of materials (such as textiles, fabrics and raw silk) and provided training to promote a handicraft industry marketed to tourists.



ECUADOR PRIZE WINNER in 2012:

The President of the Anja Miray Association, Victor Samuel Rahaovalahy, received from the hands of Fatma Samoura UNDP Resident Representative in Madagascar, on June 18, 2013 in Ambalavao, the certificate of merit of the 2012 Ecuador Prize.