

Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

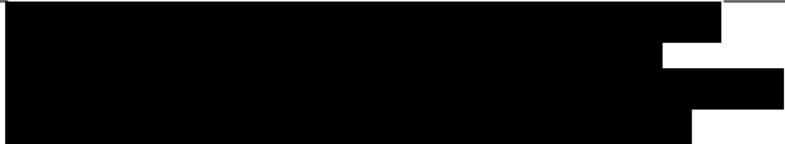
To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

It is expected that this report will be a maximum of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Initiative Project Information

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| Project reference | 28-009 |
| Project title | Enabling youths to lead lemur conservation in eastern Madagascar |
| Country/ies | Madagascar |
| Lead Partner | Madagasikara Voakajy |
| Project partner(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Association Mitsinjo (Mitsinjo)- Money for Madagascar (MfM)- Label CBD Consulting (LCBD)- Délégation de la Jeunesse Moramanga (DeJJS)- Circonscription de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage Moramanga (CIRAE)- Circonscription de la Pêche et de l'Economie Bleue (CIRPEB)- Circonscription de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable Moramanga (CIREDD) |
| Darwin Initiative grant value | £286,137.92 |
| Start/end dates of project | July 2021 to June 2024 |
| Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3) | April 2023 to 31 st March 2024 Annual report 3 |
| Project Leader name | Voahirana Claudia Randriamamonjy |
| Project website/blog/social media | www.madagasikara-voakajy.org https://www.facebook.com/madagasikaravoakajy https://www.linkedin.com/company/madagasikara-voakajy/ https://twitter.com/MVoakajy |
| Report author(s) and date |  06 th May 2024 |

1. Project summary

The project « *Enabling youths to lead lemur conservation in eastern Madagascar* » tackles a key driver of Madagascar's accelerated biodiversity loss: the growing population's need to clear forests for agriculture. Around three Reserves in eastern Madagascar, we will equip 200 youths with the knowledge, skills, and experience needed to increase yields through sustainable farming, adopt aromatic and medicinal plants in their farming systems and market their products with ethical enterprises. Youths will share their knowledge, skills, and experience in their communities and will engage all members in lemur conservation stewardship.

Rice is the staple food in Madagascar. The average consumption per capita is 138kg per year, so a family of five members will need to yield or buy 690kg. The average yield with the traditional technique is 1 ton per hectare. Hence, to provide for their consumption, a family of five requires at least 0.69 hectares of arable land. Since the total area of arable land in Madagascar is decreasing, fewer people, especially youths, have sufficient land. To survive, young families convert forest areas into agricultural land. Consequently, initiatives to create protected areas to save Madagascar's unique biodiversity are considered a barrier for the poorest needing to access fertile soil and escape poverty.

This project will try to reconcile the needs of people and biodiversity around three protected areas in Moramanga district, Alaotra-Mangoro Region, eastern Madagascar: Analamazaotra, Ankeniheny (southern part of Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor) and Mangabe-Ranomena-Sahasarotra (figure 1). All host Critically Endangered lemur species such as the indri (*Indri indri*) and the diademed sifaka (*Propithecus diadema*). Mangabe and Ankeniheny are difficult to reach and youths have poor access to education, markets, or technology. Subsistence agriculture is their main activity. They also rely on charcoal production, timber harvesting and wildlife hunting for their livelihoods. Analamazaotra is the most visited protected area in Madagascar. Although there are more job opportunities here, due to ecotourism and the operations of large mining company Ambatovy, poor education levels mean few youths from nearby villages gain employment. Most (90%) still depend on agriculture. In addition, when problems such as political instability or the current pandemic disrupt employment, even youths involved in ecotourism or mining resort to agriculture, timber harvesting, charcoal production and hunting to survive.

Multiple research and development projects around the project area demonstrated that yields can be doubled or tripled. However, adoption rates have been low. Farmers from the target villages report the following reasons: improved techniques are too expensive to maintain (time and money); produce rots due to lack of markets; farmers still need assistance, but technicians are no longer available (project ended).

Consequently, most households continue to produce less food than they need, and must rely on other activities, such as daily labour, charcoal production, logging or hunting, to survive. These households cannot afford to invest in technologies to increase yields on existing land. Therefore, to meet their basic needs, they continue clearing forests for agricultural land and harvesting wild products intensively, inadvertently destroying unique habitats and reducing biodiversity.

In Madagascar's 'Emergence Plan', a textile industry development is planned for Moramanga district (<https://bit.ly/3aRx33A>). This development represents both an opportunity and a risk for the targeted Reserves and the local population. In fact, with this industry, the number of people in Moramanga and thereby the demand for food and other agricultural products will increase. It will therefore represent a good market opportunity for the population. However, with this increasing population, the risk of more forest clearing will also increase. Strong local conservation stewardship will be key to stopping this threat.

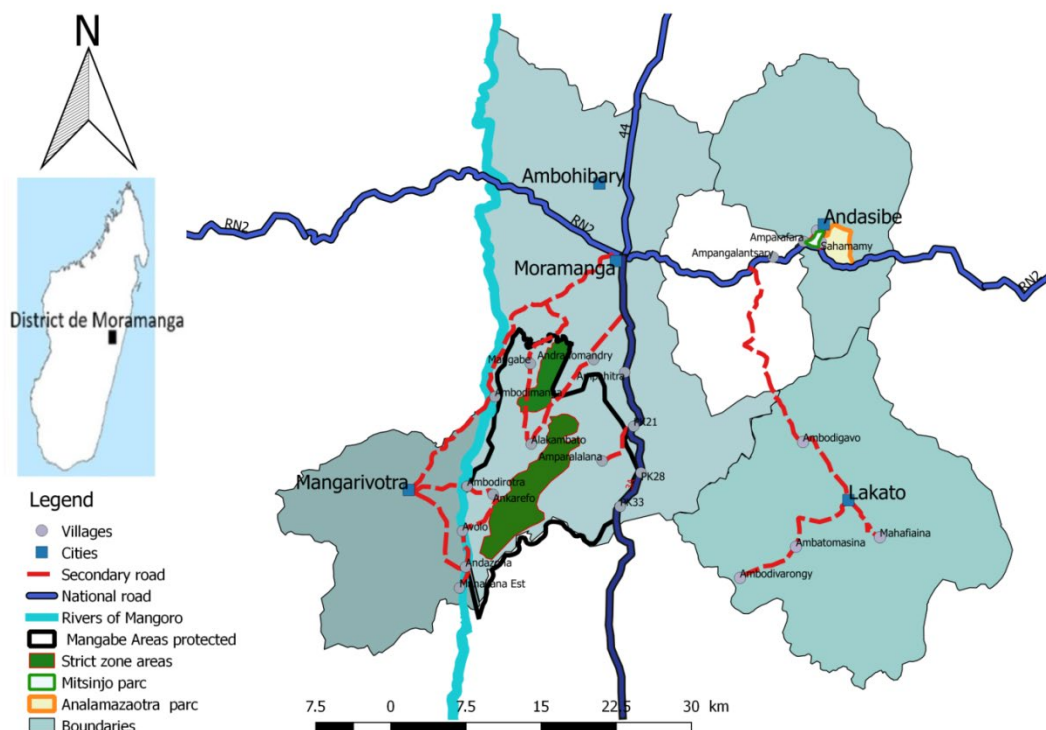


Figure 1: Intervention sites of the project: eastern Madagascar

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

Madagasikara Voakajy (MV) has worked in partnership with the following partner organisations since the beginning of the project: Association Mitsinjo, Money for Madagascar (MFM), Label CBD Consulting (LCBD), Delegation de Jeunesse et Sport Moramanga (DELJS), Circonscription de l’Agriculture et de l’Elevage Moramanga (CIRAE), Circonscription de la Pêche et de l’Economie Bleue (CIRPEB), and Circonscription de l’Environnement et Forêt Moramanga (CIREF).

New partners have also joined the project since May 2023: the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumption (MICC) and the Alaotra-Mangoro Regional Tourism Office (ORTALMA).

The legislation in Madagascar requires that the creation of cooperatives must be attached to the MICC. So, On June 7 to 8, 2023, a discussion was held between the Youth Project Coordinator and the team of the Regional Directorate of Industry, Commerce and Consumption (DIRCC) in Ambatondrazaka for the preparation of training for members and the legal recognition of the 05 cooperatives (each cooperative has an average of 49 members). The completed cooperatives’ files, required for the legalization process, were brought to Ambatondrazaka to facilitate further action.

On June 21 and 22, 2023, 05 members per cooperative were trained by the DIRCC team and the staff of MV on the creation and registration of cooperatives, as well as key issues and points to remember for the good conduct of a cooperative. The staff from CIRAE and the DELJS Moramanga helped too. Theories on sales technique and financial management were shared with the cooperative members at the end of the training. To practice their skills, the 25 members of the cooperatives immediately participated in the “Tsenabe Miray” agricultural fair in Moramanga to exhibit their products, familiarize themselves with sales and to prospect for customers as well as better understand the market, under the supervision of all the project partners.

To sell cooperative products, ORTALMA has agreed to become our point of sale while respecting the conservation bonuses for each product.

Over the course of the project, all partners have continued to demonstrate their commitment to achieving the project’s planned outcomes. The collaboration between the key project partners has proved to be effective since each partner is a specialist in their field and their multiple perspectives and insights have enriched each team meeting. MV and Mitsinjo Association’s in-

depth knowledge of the project areas has facilitated interventions, as has the concerted effort to include all local organisational stakeholders in the process from the very beginning.

Below are key examples of collaborative working over the past year:

A monthly meeting has always been held between all the partners every first Wednesday of the month between April 2023 and March 2024 to strengthen communication and ensure consistency of activities between the partners. The objectives of the meeting include reporting on the progress of each partner, exchange and feedback to improve the partnership, and planning for upcoming fieldwork. But these monthly meetings are cancelled when the partners have the opportunity to meet in person just before the scheduled meeting. Every 03 months, field trip to Mitsinjo then to Label CBD has been carried out by the Youth project Coordinator to ensure that the key project elements are being effectively communicated and to support the team in the field. MfM has provided recommendations on the objectives of the mission to obtain reliable and efficient indicators and means of verification. At the end of each mission, the MfM teams have carried out monitoring and evaluation of each partner by referring to the logical framework.

There has been significant collaboration with technical services as well as local authorities:

- CIREF staff helped the teams to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation and to give recommendations depending on the pressure
- DELJS staff were involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the youth teams, the training of the focal points and research of potential buyers for youth products from June 2023-March 2024
- The CIRAE staff were involved in the training and monitoring of young people on the sectors of their choice as well as the demonstration plots and the individual adoption.
- The DIRPEB team was involved in all activities concerning fish farming from planning, implementation on the ground to monitoring.
- The DIRCC ensured the training and regulation of cooperatives according to the legislation in force in Madagascar. It also helped to improve the cooperative's business plan, and offers opportunities.
- The gendarmerie was also involved in December 2023 and January 2024 to secure team on the one hand and raise awareness about local security on the other hand because of threats from delinquents in the forests.
- To ensure engagement with and ownership of the project at every institutional level, the mayors of the municipalities concerned, as well as the local authorities, were always consulted before each activity and they were involved in almost all the activities. In March 2024, the Moramanga District even sent the Delegate in charge of Commune to support team in raising awareness

On 14-16th March 2023, a meeting was held for the project focal points in Moramanga. The DELJS was involved in facilitating the meeting, reminding everyone of the roles of the focal points and monitoring the group activities. CIRAE were involved in monitoring, evaluating and giving recommendations on the agricultural activities of the groups.

On 23th March 2023, a meeting with all partners (MV, Mitsinjo, Label CBD, and MfM) was held in Moramanga to discuss the future of cooperatives and strengthen the communication plan.

In August 2023, a meeting between Madagasikara Voakajy, MfM and Mitsinjo was held to respond to Darwin's feedback during the year 02 annual report, clarify and adjust Safeguarding policies as well as impact indicators.

On 27th September 2023, a meeting with all partners (MV, Mitsinjo, Label CBD, and MfM) was held in Label CBD Office Antananarivo to share project updates, discuss contextual issues needing resolution, consider MEL data, identify how to adapt the next interventions according to the context, and to prepare the half year report Year 3. During this meeting, we discussed on how to correct the database and clarify the indicators, increase Darwin visibility on the ground and our websites.

From February 27 to March 29, 2024, the project leader Voahirana Claudia RANDRIAMAMONJY held a meeting with the staffs of the regional Director of Industry, Commerce and Consumption in Ambatondrazaka on the progress of cooperatives and the steps still to be followed such as the regularization of statistical cards and tax. She also took the opportunity to report on the youth project to the regional Director of Environment.

On 06th March 2024, a meeting with MV, Mitsinjo and MFM was held in MFM Office Itaosy to share project updates, consider MEL data, and check the remaining activities to be carried out and the output to be obtained according to the logical framework. The means of verification for each output were also verified.

On 13rd March 2024, a meeting with MV and Label CBD was held in Label CBD Office Tana to share the project updates according to the monitoring with MFM, and to discuss especially about the achievement in the Output 02 and Output 04. We also took the initiative to prepare the connection of cooperatives with potential buyers.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: 200 youths take steps to move towards sustainable farming techniques in Analamazaotra, Ankeniheny and Mangabe, including composting, agroforestry and crop diversification

Activity 1.1 Launch the project at the villages

In December 2021, the project was launched in 21 villages in the rural municipalities of Ambohibary, Andasibe, Mangarivotra and Lakato. Twenty-one community meetings were held to successfully create 21 youth teams: 08 in Ambohibary, 04 in Andasibe, 04 in Mangarivotra, and 05 in Lakato. Twenty-one 'Focal Points' were elected by the local community (1 per group) to lead and coach the youth teams. Two hundred and twenty three (223) young people registered their interest in participating in the teams and developing more sustainable farming techniques.

Activity 1.2 Collect annual data on agricultural practices

In order to monitor the evolution of the agricultural practices adopted over the project lifetime and to understand any changes occurring as a result of project activities, data on agricultural practices were collected for each of the 21 villages, between February 2022 and March 2024. 30% of households were surveyed randomly. All the hamlets making up each village were represented. The survey sheets allowed us to obtain data on: 1) the characteristics and needs of the households, 2) the crops and livestock adopted and their relative level of priority 3) whether or not identified sustainable agricultural techniques were being adopted.

All data sheets on agricultural practices have already been distributed; all agricultural practices in 2022 and 2023 have been collected, entered and even analysed for the PK axis. But for the other axis, the files are being entered. Results on adoption of agricultural practices will be shared in the final report.

Activity 1.3 Recruit and train focal points

To ensure that all the 'focal points', recruited at the project launch, could effectively carry out their role of leader and coach for the youth teams, a training schedule was developed and implemented. During all fieldwork visits, MV teams held sessions to reinforce the focal points' understanding of their key responsibilities and to build their capacity to effectively monitor and support the youth teams and the cooperatives.

During the "Tsenabe Miray" agricultural fair in Moramanga from June 23 to 25, 2023, we were able to strengthen the roles of the 04 focal points in Andasibe on sales techniques and approaches to potential buyers.

On 14-16th February 2024, a specific workshop was held with the 20 focal points in Moramanga to further strengthen their capacity, follow up their activities and collect their feedback. The focal point from Ambodivarongy was absent for personal reasons.

During the meeting, we were able to:

- Update the project in front of the focal points and partners
- Strengthen their capacities for monitoring production and managing cooperatives
- Plan the next mission together
- Collect feedback from focal points on the youth project and the rest

Positive feedbacks from the focal points included:

- The conversation with the technical services (CIRAE, CIRPEB, DELJS, DRICC) , especially the department heads, is very informative
- Many people are convinced of the youth project,
- Young members differ from other young people by their behaviour,

However, the focal points also raised challenges and issues needing to be resolved:

- Young people becoming unwilling to patrol the forest because of the risk of violence from offenders in the protected areas,
- Delinquents destroy plants reforested by the youth teams, demotivating them
- It is difficult to organize General Assemblies because of the distance of young people

The focal points made several recommendations to help resolve the problems identified:

- Patrols must be stopped until the threats from delinquents subside because it is risky
- Strengthen communication to avoid rumors about the youth project
- We must provide them with videos on sustainable agricultural techniques and the best biodiversity conservation techniques because it is easy to remember and assimilate
- Avoid long training sessions or interventions during lean periods, take urgent measures
- Always reinforce and refresh the trainings already received
- Get support from relevant authorities to remove offenders from the Protected Areas

Activity 1.4 Provide initial training for all youths interested in participating in the project

Initial training on sustainable agricultural techniques, which reflected the youths' stated preferences, was carried out in the 21 target villages between February and March 2022. The young people particularly appreciated learning climate smart agricultural techniques such as the use of improved varieties and cropping systems under vegetative cover.

And reminders of these training already received have always been carried out every 3 months since May 2022. These reminders were carried out either in the classroom or on the ground depending on the needs of the young people and the findings of the technicians.

But after the creation of the cooperatives, young people expressed their need for other techniques to be able to add value to their products.

Thus, in May 2023, the TMHVL cooperative in the PK axis received training on conservation, processing and packaging techniques for Agri-food products. The training was divided into 2 parts: theoretical and practical training. Theoretical training concerns: good practices and hygiene rules, preservation techniques (cold, heat, reduction of humidity and chemical level), processing techniques (vegetables in flour, fruits and fresh and dried vegetables), packaging and storage of products (bottling and labeling). The practical training consists of: processing fruit and vegetables, peanut preservation and production of cassava and sweet potato flour, packaging honey in glass jars. It should be noted that this training was repeated in Andranomandy village for the KT3M cooperative in February 2024.

In September 2023, 03 youth teams in the rural commune of Lakato (Mahafiaina, Ambodigavo, Lakato) received training on fruit and forestry arboriculture (citrus and acacia), nursery management by CIRAE Moramanga to complete the initial training.

On June 22, 2023, all representatives of the cooperatives in Moramanga were able to benefit from a reminder from Label CBD on hygiene conditions and packaging techniques thanks to the practice of bottling honey for sale at the agricultural fair “Tsenabe Miray”.

The youth groups in PK33, PK32, PK21 and Amparalalana also received support, training and supervision on the creation of solar dryers for drying fruits and vegetables according to market needs identified within the framework of agricultural cooperatives in November 2023. During each field trip, the teams reinforced messages on the importance of community life and highlighted key learning points from training already received by the youth teams. These included: the advantages of living in association; creating cooperatives; the importance of uniting for the development of the community and the biodiversity conservation. The youth groups were able to appreciate how being in a group allows one to acquire new skills, to participate in local development, and to learn to live in society. The activity reports that had already been produced by the youth groups were collected and fed into MV and Mitsinjo databases to ensure quality recording and MEL. In addition, all 21 focal points also received capacity building on group management and reporting.

Activity 1.5 Register youths willing to continue in the project

After these initial agricultural training sessions, participating youths were invited to commit to the project by registering. The list of registered youth team members was received firstly during the meeting with the focal points in Moramanga in March 2023, and then updated during fieldworks until February 2024. The final list was received during the trip of the Presidents of the cooperatives to Antananarivo for the discussion with potential buyers in March 2024. Three hundred and twenty four (324) young people attended the initial training but 241 registered on March 2023, 245 on March 2024. 26 joined the youth teams but 26 resigned.

As part of the on- going project, MEL data will be collected on the youth teams’ evolution, including membership levels, reasons for membership and reasons for resignation, where this occurs.

Activity 1.6 Locate and assess characteristics of youths fields

Field trips to identify and characterise community agricultural demonstration plots were made during the practical agricultural training sessions in February and March 2022. Undertaking plot soil characterisation was vital for working out the plot’s ideal technical itinerary and identifying the costs that would be incurred by each chosen practice. Knowledge of the history of the soil allowed the MV team to propose crop rotations to adopt as well as crops to avoid in order to maintain soil fertility. Knowing the state of soil fertility, thanks to this study of the soil profile, also helped to identify the appropriate dose and spread of fertiliser. In addition, studying the terroir allowed potential agricultural risks to be identified and enabled the development of an effective plan for the sustainable management of the youths’ project plots.

In the case of livestock (fish and pig farming), characterisation visits were held in August and November 2022 for the 04 youth teams in Andasibe. The characterisation of the location of the dwelling of the cattle is essential in order to know whether the site is secure or not, to calculate the costs for the installation of the necessary infrastructure and the conduct of the breeding before the practice. But the characterization is done every quarter during fieldworks when the youth teams decide to cultivate on another demonstration plot.

Between September 2023 and February 2024, all the demonstration plots were located and characterized in order to be able to help them choose the adoption of individual practices. At each fieldwork, the MV and Mitsinjo team always follow the young people’s demonstration plots.

Activity 1.7 Develop a production plan for each field

Having identified key crops and practices to be implemented on the demonstration plots, youths were supported to design optimal production plans from April 2022 to March 2023. Each production plan included the list of all necessary agricultural inputs (materials and seeds) and labour. It also included all agricultural operations from soil preparation to harvest.

These cultural operations were planned monthly with the corresponding costs. These plans allowed for the estimation of expected yields as well as the benefits.

All production plans were finalized in May 2023 and were adopted by the young people. But after the creation of the cooperatives, the young people revised the production plans according to the business plans of each cooperative from August 2023.

Activity 1.8 Train, support and mentor youths in implementing the production plan

Field missions were carried out from April 2023 to March 2024 to provide training as well as financial and material support to enable the 21 youth teams to implement their production plans. During field trips, checks were made to see whether or not the technical itineraries adopted by the young people matched the pre-established production plans. Any difficulties that they were encountering with the implementation of their plans were discussed and the opportunity was used to provide additional training and support where needed. Thus, the project teams were able to respond to the young people's feedback and to help them to improve their production plans according to their specific contexts.

A reminder of the production plan and the collection of agricultural data was also carried out during the meeting of focal points in February 2024 in Moramanga to better refine the production plans according to the new sectors to be adopted by cooperative.

From May 2023 to March 2024: the 31 demonstration plots of the 21 youth groups were monitored to collect yield data, adjust the production plans and give advice to the young people. The agricultural practices selected by the young people are as follows: beekeeping, fish farming, pig farming, field pea production, bean production, green bean production, fruit tree planting, irrigated rice production, market gardening, cassava production, peanut production, corn production and potato cultivation. During follow-ups, we always ensure the sustainability of the techniques adopted. We ensure that the principles of agroforestry are respected at the level of demonstration plots and individuals, and that composts are always used to improve soil fertility. This money will allow the groups to purchase materials necessary for the association, to continue the adoption of sustainable techniques through the purchase of improved seeds and the remuneration of surplus labour. The rest will serve as a reserve fund for future needs.

The plots of young people ready to adopt sustainable agricultural practices on their own land were identified and then demarcated to guide them. The adoption of new sustainable practices by other young people will be a gradual process because capacity to adopt depends on the crop calendar and the availability of arable land. Each group has received a share of their agreed support (i.e. seeds, agricultural equipment and labour) according to the stage in the annual cropping calendar and the needs expressed. A database allows the support status of each group to be tracked (Annex01 support for youth teams).

From June 6 to 12, 2023, the Regional Director of Fisheries and the Blue Economy Alaotra-Mangoro visited the fish farming project of the youth group in Ambodigavo (Commune of Lakato). He took the opportunity to share the vision of the Ministry and guide young on the activities to do to improve the fish farming sector according to the local context. He even provided a report on areas for improvement in the fish farming sector and prospects. The Director mentioned in the report that young people should follow the advice given on site to obtain high yields such as reducing the density of carp. He also mentioned the in-depth study on the hot water source beneficial for carp while minimizing land clearing.

Activity 1.9 Monitor yields of youths and other community members

From August 2023 to March 2024, the team monitored the adoption of individual sustainable farming techniques by the young people, in order to update the databases and to be able to give them relevant recommendations. All production plans were reviewed and updated.

In February 2023, the process of monitoring the yields from the youths' and other community members' plots was initiated. The project teams started to fill in the identification sheets on agricultural practices at the level of the 21 villages. All the data from the agricultural plots will continue to be recorded according to the progress of each different crop type. The sustainable agricultural practices implemented by the communities were identified and the

necessary information was recorded in identification sheets. Each sheet shows information on the owner, the history and the location of the plot and details on the adoption of the techniques as well as yields per crop. All the data are now collected and we are in the process of data entry and analysis.

Output 2: Production of aromatic and medicinal plants becomes part of youths' farming system

Activity 2.1 Identify appropriate aromatic and medicinal plants

At the start of the project, appropriate Aromatic and Medicinal Plant (AMP) species with potential to be included in the youth's farming systems were identified. The 12 species below were selected due to their wide distribution throughout the Protected Areas, both in the 'forest hard-core' and the buffer zones:

- *Centella asiatica*, *Desmodium adscendens*, *Sigesbeckia orientalis* for the short term;
- *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Canarium madagascariensis*, *Cryptocaria aromatica* for the medium and long term (potential customers already existing);
- *Harungana madagascariensis*, *Norhonia lanceolata*, *Pittasporum achrosiaefolium*, *Trema orientalis*, *Vernonia appendiculata*, *Tambourissa trichophylla* for the medium and long term (customers to be identified).

But this identification still continues to find out if there is still AMP demanded by the market yet available. In March 2024, the LABEL CBD team continued the identification of suitable aromatic and medicinal plants with *Ravensara* or *Cryptocaria elliptica* in the Mangabe and Lakambato zone. This choice is justified by the fact that the need expressed by the potential client interested in the species is defined on a precise terpinene and limonene chemotype, identical to that identified by the team itself in Vohidrazana as part of a prospecting for this same customer. For information, Vohidrazana is a site located in an area bordering the project intervention area and attached to the municipality of Beforona, Moramanga District, Alaotra Mangoro Region. The objective of this study is to find mother plants with the same chemical variety in order to be able to develop a resource management plan.

The chromatographic profile corresponding to this chemotype is presented in Annex 02. (LCBD_PROFIL_REFERENCE HE RAVENSARA)

This phase consists of carrying out a prospecting and an inventory of Ravensara plants, distinguishing the seed carriers and the suckers, were carried out in Antanimbaribe in the Mangabe site and in Andongozo in the Alakambato site. It allows to:

- a. Confirm the presence/absence of the Ravensara species in the 2 localities
- b. Carry out georeferencing of the feet and marking with aluminium labels.
- c. Estimate the exploitable biomass

Activity 2.2 Assess feasibility of growing them in the fields and nurseries

In addition, the feasibility study for the production of Ravensara cuttings was carried out in July 2023 in two areas in PK40 and Andapa (Municipality of Mangarivotra). The field trip consisted of identifying two trees for each study area, collecting and then distilling leaves. In total, four (4) essential oil samples were produced and then analysed to determine their respective chemotypes. Based on the samples received of dried leaves of aromatic and medicinal plants, 5 youth teams are interested in the production of dried leaves of *Centella asiatica*, 2 for *Desmodium adscendens* and 2 for *Siegesbeckia orientalis*.

The land for the aromatic and medicinal plant nursery has all been secured while awaiting the results of research into market opportunities and which plants would be most appropriate for adoption in each village. 06 nurseries are already operational in the Mangabe Protected Area. The 04 youth teams in Andasibe have already been able to set up nurseries to multiply the species *Tambourissa trichophylla* to insert them into the practice of young people.

From the Ravensara mother plants identified in the two observation locations, leaves are taken and then distilled separately in order to know and validate or not the profiles of the essential oils

produced. The trees presenting the terpinene and limonene chemotype, after analysis of the chromatographic profiles of the samples obtained, will subsequently be multiplied by the so-called layering method before being integrated into the nurseries and young fields as planned in the Activity 2.2.

During the fieldwork, the field team was able to collect 16.5 kg of leaves in Antanimbaribe and 10 kg of leaves in Andongozo to have 10ml of essential oil in each batch.

Unfortunately, the analysis results revealed that the two samples from the two areas do not conform to the profile sought by the potential client. Indeed, the essential oils analyzed are both rich in a chemical component called methyl chavicol having a very pronounced anise odor as indicated by the corresponding analysis bulletins attached in Annex 03. (LCBD_PROFIL HE RAVENSARA_ANTANIMBARIBE, PJ 2 LCBD_PROFIL HE RAVENSARA_ANDONGOZO).

In order to ensure the traceability of production, collection, transport and traceability sheets were completed by the team throughout the mission. In the case of *Centella asiatica*, the integration of the plant into fields and nurseries is not recommended. Indeed, following the exchanges carried out with researchers from the Madagascar Plant Research Center (CRPM) within the Plant Biology and Ecology section (MBEV) of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Antananarivo, although feasible, the multiplication of *Centella* does not make it possible to obtain the same rates and product quality as those resulting from wild collection in terms of active ingredients. As a result, the exploitation of the resource will be done solely through collection.

Activity 2.3 Assess availability of each product annually

Following the study carried out by the Madagascar Plant Research Center (CRPM) within the Plant Biology and Ecology section (MBEV) concerning the quantitative evaluation of abundance, estimation of biomass and distribution of 11 species of potential interest, one of the techniques adopted for evaluating the availability of each product annually consists of monitoring/detecting areas affected by various anthropogenic pressures, notably bush fires, evaluating the affected surfaces and estimating the quantities of remaining biomass.

Activity 2.4 Train youths in handling the products

Throughout the project, the LABEL CBD team provides training reminders on good practices for sustainable collection of natural plant resources, hygiene, safety, drying and storage of products and traceability at each fieldwork to continue the activities done in Year 01 and Year 02 of the project.

For example, during the agricultural fair in Moramanga in June 2023, Label CBD reminded the representatives of the cooperatives of the standards for conservation and the hygienic conditions to be respected for the exhibition of products.

Activity 2.5 Assess fair price and develop a sustainable harvesting model

Following the interview with representatives of the Talamanga company carried out in November 2023 with a view to setting up a sustainable supply process and, in other words, a sustainable harvest model for *Centella*, the LABEL team CBD focuses on monitoring the formalization of the *Centella* pickers' association initiated by the company itself until interested young people are integrated into it. As reminders, they are therefore required to make an initial delivery to the company headquarters itself in order to identify themselves, register and receive a member's badge. In order to ensure sustainable collection, the maximum quantity of dry matter authorized per delivery and the unit price were respectively set at 5kg per young person and 12,500Ar per kilo.

Output 3: Youth-led cooperatives are established to drive social and economic development and biodiversity stewardship in the villages

Activity 3.1 Train youths on entrepreneurship, cooperative management and marketing

From November 2022 to March 2023, the 21 youth teams received training on entrepreneurship, cooperative management and marketing. Thanks to these trainings, the young people were able to elaborate the statute of the cooperatives including identifying the board members, the objectives of the cooperative, the sources of income and the other essential points within the framework of a cooperative. Following the training, the youths understood that market research was important to guide their production. Hence, they are starting to search for markets after their training.

But at each field trip, the MV and Mitsinjo team always provides reminders about these training courses based on the retention of practices by the young people, the application of the instructions and the observations of the trainers. For example, the representatives of the 05 cooperatives were still able to receive instructions and reminders on entrepreneurship, cooperative management and marketing during the training from July 21 to 22, 2023. They then practiced the training received thanks to the participation in the “Tsenabe Miray” fair in Moramanga from June 23 to 25, 2023. The 05 cooperatives were also trained in packaging and presentation of their products during exhibitions according to marketing techniques: sorting of products before packaging, placing in jars, labelling and stand presentation.

Activity 3.2 Establish and register youths' cooperatives

Between March and May 2023, MV and Mitsinjo team conducted training on cooperative management at the 05 axis level. After awareness raising, 5 cooperatives were created. A temporary list of members and the board of directors as well as the statuses of the cooperatives were obtained. But registration requires collaboration and the intervention of the DIRCC. So, on June 7 to 8, 2023, a discussion was held between the Youth Project Coordinator and the team of the Regional Directorate of Industry, Commerce and Consumption (DIRCC) in Ambatondrazaka for the preparation of training for members and the legal recognition of the 05 cooperatives. The completed cooperatives' files, required for the legalisation process, were brought to Ambatondrazaka to facilitate further action.

On June 21 and 22, 2023, 05 members per cooperative were trained by the DIRCC team and the staff of MV on the creation and registration of cooperatives, as well as key issues and points to remember for the good conduct of a cooperative. The staff from CIRAE and the DELJS Moramanga helped too. Theories on sales technique and financial management were shared with the cooperative members at the end of the training. To practice their skills, the 25 members of the cooperatives immediately participated in the “Tsenabe Miray” agricultural fair to exhibit their products, familiarise themselves with sales and to prospect for customers as well as better understand the market, under the supervision of all the project partners. Agricultural products such as peanuts, corn, beans and salads were put on sale alongside finished products such as cassava and sweet potato powders and packaged boxed honey.

Throughout the month, reminder sessions about the key elements for success as a cooperative were carried out for the 05 youth cooperatives. Meetings of the boards of directors per cooperative were also held to establish and clarify the business plan for each cooperative. The main sectors of cooperatives are generally oriented towards processed and preserved products due to high added values and ease of transport. The main sectors are as follows depending on the cooperatives: honey, gluten-free flour, dried fruits, chili, peanut oil, beans and crafts. A database on these cooperatives is functional to ensure monitoring and evaluation.

Activity 3.3 Develop simplified business plan

On June 23, 2023, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumption visited the stands in person, along with the national manager of cooperatives. The young people were then able to express their needs and make themselves known. Participation in this small fair allowed the cooperatives to revise their business plans based on the market realities. Furthermore, participants in the exhibition were able to publicise their activities and products, share profits from the sale of these and create customer – supplier relationships. 10% of the sale price was directly used for lemur conservation activities. It should be noted that the feedback, discussions and exchanges between different cooperatives during the fair were enriching for their development.

Afterwards, the members of the cooperatives were aware of the importance of business plans to be able to negotiate with partners and guide their strategies. Thus, all 05 cooperatives received training on the development of a business plan in September and November 2023. During the meeting of focal points in Moramanga on February 14-16, 2024, the review of the business plans was carried out. And in March 2024, each cooperative was able to finalize and then sign their business plan. Based on these 05 business plans, MV and Mitsinjo team were able to guide the search for potential customers and negotiate sales contracts.

Activity 3.4 Monitor youth cooperatives' management and function

At each field trip between September 2023 and March 2024, the team always discusses with the board of directors of the cooperatives to monitor and evaluate their evolution to give them recommendations and guide their activities. A check of the management notebooks was also carried out at each field trip. The team also attended the General Assemblies during their field trips to see how cooperatives go about solving problems and making decisions. Future recalls are based on the team's monitoring results.

Output 4: Three private enterprises, engaged in sustainability, commit to sourcing products from the youth-led cooperatives and support their development as a business and biodiversity steward entity in the villages

Activity 4.1 Identify potential partner enterprises

Between September 2023 and March 2024, the team always discusses with the board of directors of the cooperatives to monitor and evaluate their developments in order to give them recommendations and guide their activities. A check of the management notebooks was also carried out at each field trip. The identification of the companies is also based on the business plan of the cooperatives. To facilitate customer prospecting and market research, a database with contact, information relating to the sectors chosen by the cooperatives is available now (Annex 04 List of Companies Cooperatives).

Activity 4.2 Engage exchange and discussions between youths and enterprises

Thanks to this fair "Tsenabe Miray" in Moramanga in June 2023, the company Madagascar Consulting Ingredients (MCI) gave each cooperative a draft contract to sign for the pepper plantation after the negotiations. The cooperative at Axis PK level immediately organized a general meeting in August 2023 to discuss it. Thus, 73 ares of field were identified, demarcated and characterized for the production of peppers intended for MCI.

In August 2023, the AROMASOURCE Company discussed its interest in supplying raw materials to young people for further cultivation from January 2024 including Geranium (*Pelargonium graveolens*), black pepper (*Piper nigrum*), ginger (*Zingiber officinalis*), vetiver (*Vetiveria zizanioides*) and tagetes (*Tagetes minuta* or *Tagetes bipinata*). The information has been transferred to the cooperatives so that they can analyse whether it is feasible.

From March 25 to 29, 2024, Tolotra Ramanantsoa (Youth Assistant project from MV) organized a professional trip to Moramanga and Tana with the Presidents of the 05 cooperatives to engage discussions with private companies and identify potential partnerships for a possible sustainable contract. The companies visited are: ORTALMA, STOI Agri, PROFARM, TOOMADI, Soeur Mami. Representatives of the cooperatives were then able to exhibit their products (honey, cassava and sweet potato flour, rice, corn, beans) and listen to, delivery the companies' requirements (sample, packaging locations).

Activity 4.3 Develop and sign agreements between youth's cooperatives and businesses

The contract with ORTALMA was signed to display the products of the cooperatives in its store. Concerning other companies, the presidents of cooperatives should first report to all members before deciding whether to sign the contract or not. It should be noted that each contract requires a conservation bonus for lemurs.

Activity 4.4 Support youths to implement their part of the agreement

In February 2024, we designed brochures to show the activities of cooperatives and ensure their visibility. After each visit, the team organizes a briefing to obtain the feelings of the

presidents of the cooperatives and then gave them recommendations to improve their production according to the requirements of the companies. The discussion with companies also showed the obligation to have up-to-date statistical and tax maps for cooperatives. Thus, all the documents necessary for the regularization of the NIF/STAT of cooperatives were obtained on March 30, 2024. The regularization then took place in April 2024.

Activity 5.2 Attend awareness campaigns run by youths

In November-December 2022 and February-March 2023, training sessions on communication, leadership, social skills and technical awareness were given to 21 youth teams. In May-June 2022, the staff from Ministry of Youth Moramanga (DELJS) conducted training on awareness-raising techniques for lemur conservation, health and other aspects of development for all 4 youth teams in Andasibe and youth teams in the following villages: Lakambato, PK33, PK32, Lakato and Mahafiaina. The young people's interest in this training was demonstrated by the high level of attendance (242 youths were present).

And even if the training has already been completed, reminders were carried out during each field trip between May 2023 and March 2024 depending on the context on the ground. And these themes were discussed during the meeting with the focal points in February 2024 so that they can master the coordination of the youth teams activities.

Every 03 months between May 2023 and March 2024, the MV and Mitsinjo teams even participated in mass awareness rising on lemurs and other aspects of development according to the context, collective patrols and reforestation organized by young people in or around the 21 target villages. Training and reminders about the best ways to ensure the smooth running and success of these activities were carried out based on the evaluation. Data and information on youth engagement and the approaches adopted are grouped into a functional database to help measure the impact of the project.

In August 2023, the cooperative in Andasibe received training on environmental education to ensure that information on lemur conservation goes down well with the community. Video interviews were done for all the young members of the 04 cooperatives except the cooperative in Andasibe which is currently planning to do it. The interview consists of asking young people's perceptions of the effect and impact of the project so that they can be analysed. The questions asked are as follows:

What are the impacts of the youth project on your livelihood?

What are the impacts of the youth project on environmental protection?

What are the impacts of the youth project on the development of your village?

What are the impacts of the youth project on you (private or personal)?

And in the absence of site managers, local agents are always there to participate in awareness raising organized by young people. 356 awareness campaigns have already been run by the youths. For example, the four youth teams in Andasibe were able to participate in the celebration of the National Lemur Day 3rd Edition which was held in Andasibe on October 27, 2023. Local and national authorities were aware of the existence of the youth project funded by the Darwin Initiative and of the groups of young ambassadors for the conservation of lemurs. The young people were also able to discuss with other actors in the field of conservation. They mainly sensitised the communities in Andasibe through interpersonal communications during the carnival.

Activity 5.3 Review list of cooperative members

At each meeting with the youth teams, whether on the ground or in Moramanga, we always update the list of cooperatives (field meeting, general assembly of cooperatives, training of members, training of focal points). The 04 cooperatives in the PK, central, Mangarivotra and Lakato axis did not accept the membership of new members because of their statutes. They still want to master the existing group and ensure the current business plan before learning lessons about adding new members. While the cooperative in Andasibe has accepted the membership of 10 members.

Activity 5.4 Support youths to develop and implement conservation and restoration plans

From November 2023, all youth teams and the 05 cooperatives received training on the design of conservation and restoration plans. The development of the plans consists first of identifying all the actions to be undertaken in the field of conservation and the partnerships or collaborations to be made. Then, you have to do the planning while setting the responsibilities of each entity. During the meeting of focal points in Moramanga in February 2024, group work was carried out to refine the plans by cooperative. And in March 2024, the finalization and signing of the plans was carried out. And during all these times, the MV team and Mitsinjo have always supported the cooperatives technically and morally. We facilitated meetings and supported negotiations with potential partners of young people.

Activity 5.5 Household interviews to assess communities' engagement to the conservation and restoration plan

The interviews were already carried out just after the development and then signing of the conservation and restoration plan for the PK Axis from November 2023. But for the other areas, the interview is still in progress. The survey forms already completed are currently being entered while waiting for the other forms. Results from household interviews will be shared in the final report.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: 200 youths take steps to move towards sustainable farming techniques in Analamazaotra, Ankeniheny and Mangabe, including composting, agroforestry and crop diversification.

All youths in the project are already taking steps towards using sustainable farming techniques. To date, 21 youth teams with 239 members around Mangabe, Ankeniheny and Analamazaotra reserves are successfully set up and functional. Since June 2022, demonstration plots for all the 21 youth teams have been identified, delimited and characterized. This process has increased the youths understanding of the state of their soil and the agricultural capacity of their land, which was vital in enabling them to design and fulfil appropriate production plans (showing what they will grow and/or raise).

Thanks to all the training given by Mitsinjo and MV, on sustainable farming techniques and on developing effective production plans for each chosen agricultural sector, the youth teams were all able develop and implement quality plans in their chosen area of focus. A production plan has been completed for each of the 21 Youth Teams, outlining all the technical itineraries, the costs, the productions envisaged as well as the cultural calendars. These plans have provided the basis for the development of the demonstration plots.

Monitoring of the demonstration plots showed that all 21 youth teams adopted sustainable agricultural techniques (composting, agroforestry, rotation and crop association) at the demonstration plots. Even the 2 teams who chose beekeeping and the 04 teams who chose fish farming practiced sustainable agriculture at the same time. The yields at the level of the demonstration plots have already been entered but the comparison of the evolution of the yields is waiting for the big harvest for the month of May 2024.

All individual support for 187 young people in Mangabe Protected Area and Lakato has already been distributed, so they have been able to practice sustainable farming techniques. 52 youths in Andasibe have received 35% of their support. And the collection of youth returns will be finalized in April 2024.

Output 2: Production of aromatic and medicinal plants becomes part of youths' farming system

The integration of AMP into the agricultural systems of young people is done gradually and according to the needs expressed by potential customers identified by LABEL CBD. All the teams have already been able to build nurseries for the cultivation of AMP. The species cultivated in the plots are: *Tambourissa* for the youth teams in Amparafara and Sahamamy

Andasibe. For the other groups, the nurseries were populated with forest species and fruit trees while awaiting the introduction of AMP. In Amparafara and Sahamamy, they potted 200 tambourrissa young plants, but 100 only survived and are awaiting reforestation in the young plots. Planting in individual plots will take place when the young plants are ready. Between the month of September 2023 and March 2024, thanks to the training received, 18 youths in Andasibe were able to collect and sell 9,180 kg of fresh Centella, the unit cost per kilo is between 1,300Ar and 1,400Ar while respecting the sustainable collection of Centellas. They were also able to sell 540 kg of dry centella (8,000 Ariary per kilo). 04 youths in Andasibe were able to collect and sell 1,260 kg of fresh desmodium, the unit cost per kilo is 1,600Ar while respecting the sustainable collection. They were also able to sell 504 kg of dry desmodium, (20,000 Ariary per kilo) (Annex 05 AMP Planting and Sold Andasibe).

It should be noted that the focal points and presidents of the groups ensured the conformity of the products.

For the particular case of Ravensara, its inclusion in the agricultural practices of young people depends on prospecting and the existence of mother plants capable of producing essential oils composed mainly of terpinene and limonene, on the one hand and; which can be multiplied in a nursery to ensure the renewal of the resource, in the short term, and its exploitation in the long term, on the other hand.

For the products that interest the AROMA SOURCE company, you would have to wait for the planting periods which extend from September to November for geranium, from November to December for ginger, from January to March for black pepper, from November to February for vetiver and from November to December for marigolds.

In March 2024, young people in the PK axis searched for *Tambourrissa* wildlings to populate the nurseries.

The business model for *centella*, *tambourrissa* and *ravensara* are also finalized in March 2024 and are ready to be adopted.

Output 3: Youth-led cooperatives are established to drive social and economic development and biodiversity stewardship in the villages

05 cooperatives composed of 231 members were created at the level of 05 axes: central with 51 members, PK with 40 members, Mangarivotra with 52 members, Lakato with 48 members and Andasibe with 40 members. In September 2023, the registration certificates of the cooperatives were obtained, and the 05 youth cooperatives are now legal entities under the law in Madagascar. This legal recognition has given cooperative members increased confidence, for example, when the cooperative in Andasibe became legal; the young people immediately developed their business plan and training in processing agricultural products.

Each cooperative has already finalized and signed their business plan. 05 business plans are now functional.

Since participating in the agricultural fair "Tsenabe Miray" from June 23 to 25, 2024, the 05 cooperatives have been able to sell their products such as: sweet potato and cassava flour, repackaged honey, corn, beans, embroidery. They were thus able to obtain a total of 245,000 Ar, 10% of which serves directly as a bonus for the conservation of lemurs. In fact, the bonus is used to support members' meals during patrols, the purchase of pots for young plants and other conservation activities. From September 2023, each cooperative also participated in the development activities of their respective villages (Annex 06 Conservation Development Mini Project Activities).

Output 4: Three private enterprises, engaged in sustainability, commit to sourcing products from the youth-led cooperatives and support their development as a business and biodiversity steward entity in the villages

Supporting the 05 youth cooperatives for their first participation in the regional fair, which took place in Moramanga from June 23 to 25, 2023 allowed them to identify potential buyers and begin negotiations to reach a contract. This has the advantage of guaranteeing young people outlets for their products and, consequently, of ensuring a stable and sustainable source of income through development of contracts. As far as possible, negotiations took into account, the realities on the ground such as, transport conditions, distance to travel for collection and local price. Around 700 people visited the stand and the members of

cooperatives were able to identify 7 potential individual buyers whose contacts have already been exchanged for further information and/ or appointments for contract signing.

Thanks to this fair, the company Madagascar Consulting Ingredients (MCI) gave each cooperative a draft contract to sign for the pepper plantation after the negotiations. The cooperative at Axis PK level immediately organized a general meeting in August 2023 to discuss it. Thus, 73 ares were identified, demarcated and characterized for the production of peppers intended for MCI.

In August 2023, the AROMASOURCE company discussed its interest in supplying raw materials to young people for further cultivation from January 2024. Geranium (*Pelargonium graveolens*), black pepper (*Piper nigrum*), ginger (*Zingiber officinalis*), vetiver (*Vetiveria zizanioides*) and tagetes. (*Tagetes minuta* or *Tagetes bipinata*) were of particular interest. The information has been transferred to the cooperatives so that they can analyse whether it is feasible.

12 potential companies were identified and contacted during the prospecting organized by MV in March 2024: Honey of Madagascar, Farmshop, Koba Donga, MC Ingrediens, Aromasource, ORTALMA, honey company, Star Madagascar, Iloo, HAVAMAD, SOAP POR Mada, Soeur MAMRE, TOOMADI.

It should be noted that contract negotiation with these companies always includes retention bonuses. A collaboration contract with ORTALMA was signed for the sale and exhibition of young people's products in their stores.

Output 5: Youths engage other community members in sustainable farming, cooperatives and biodiversity stewardship

Young people in all youth Teams and cooperatives are engaging communities by practicing sustainable agricultural techniques on their demonstration plots. In total, the 21 youth groups have 31 demonstration plots to show local people the value of sustainable agricultural practices, in terms of increased yields and better work practices. The communities were able to visit these plots and request additional information and advice to imitate and then adopt new practices on their own plots.

239 young people have already practiced sustainable agricultural techniques by abandoning the use of fires and bringing compost to individual plots. Crop rotation and association has become a normal practice for these young people.

In terms of biodiversity stewardship, all the young people were able to conduct awareness sessions on the conservation of lemurs and on sustainable agricultural practices to convince the communities about the importance of these things. The youth groups also set an example to follow in the context of conservation-related activities. Between April 2023 and March 2024, the 21 teams were able to sensitize 4711 people with 356 awareness raising sessions on lemur conservation, the importance of the forest and sustainable agriculture. They were also able to carry out 19 reforestation activities with 5760 reforested plants. 12 youth teams took part in the patrols and they did not hesitate to contact us in the event of a violation.

In August 2023, the Fotsife PK21 youth group was able to set up a school garden in collaboration with the local Public Primary School to provide support to students during the lean period and to reduce the burden on parents in teaching children. Support in terms of labor and seeds was provided to ensure the planting of market garden produce, papaya and rice on an area of 8 Ares (0.08 hectares).

500 people were convinced by the young people and adopted sustainable agricultural techniques. Analysis of data on agricultural practices adopted by the community showed a trend towards increased adoption of compost, crop association and crop rotation. And we also noted the reduction in the use of lights for all sectors.

The data to be collected in April and May 2024 will prove the effect of the youth project on community engagement. On March 2024, a youth-led biodiversity conservation and restoration plan was established in each village with all community members thanks to the 05 conservation and restauration plan signed by the cooperatives.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The project expected outcome is to enable youths around Analamazaotra, Ankeniheny, and Mangabe Reserve to demonstrate effective local conservation stewardship while driving social and economic development through sustainable farming and collaboration with private sector.

To date, 245 young people (42.44% women) are registered in the project. We hope that the number of young people and the 40% percentage of women will not decrease below 200 by June 2024. The young people are divided into 21 teams and it is hoped that no group will be dissolved by 2024. 239 young people have already learnt the new techniques and practice them in the demonstration plots and in their own field. 239 young people have already adopted the sustainable farming technique in their own field. Awareness about sustainable farming techniques and lemur conservation were already raised and the youth team have already planned their next intervention. 308 local communities (Annex 07 Adoption of sustainable farming techniques by community) adopted the sustainable farming techniques thanks to the awareness campaign. The 05 cooperatives will have just finished and signed their business plan and began to sell their products from June 2024 for the benefits of lemurs. The collaboration with private sectors and companies just began from March 2024. We also expect the youths 'effort on practicing sustainable farming techniques will contribute to reduce infractions within the reserves by the end of the project.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

| Assumption | Comments |
|---|--|
| 1. Potential political, economic, or social crisis will not have impacts on youths' ability to farm and sell their products in the markets. | Verified: the young people are for the moment very determined to succeed with the project despite any potential risks |
| 2. Natural hazards will not totally damage crops in the project area. | Verified: the agricultural techniques shared during the initial training are intended to cope with natural hazards. We have not yet received reports on the bad effect of climatic Hazards |
| 3. The Global Forest Watch platform (https://www.globalforestwatch.org/) continues to operate and provide daily and weekly forest cover loss alerts. | Verified: the platform is still functional |
| 4. No rush for gold or other gems happens in the project area. | Verified: patrol reports have not shown these cases until now |
| 5. The Malagasy Government continues to highlight the need to conserve and restore biodiversity in Madagascar and will act accordingly. | The sustainable management of natural resources is still part of the 10th action plan of the Malagasy Government among the 16 existing action plans. The Ministry of the Environment continues to work with NGOs working in the field of the environment and strengthens environmental laws. And the new Minister of the Environment appointed |

| | |
|---|---|
| | in January 2024 is also a former CEO of an association working in the field of the environment in Madagascar who understand the needs and situation of NGOs in the field of conservation. |
| 6. Identification of field characteristics will not be hampered by rumours of land grabbing. | Verified: the challenges of the project and the interest of soil characterizations were well explained during community meetings with local authorities to avoid rumors. We have received no complaints so far |
| 7. Yields are not damaged by natural hazards such as the weather, diseases, or pests. | Verified: the techniques shared during the initial training were designed to be resilient to the effects of climate change and hazards. Thus, it is hoped that these factors will not have significant effects on yield. Only non-compliance with agricultural techniques and the cropping calendar reduced yields |
| 8. At least 3 useful aromatic and medicinal plants are identified as compatible with the farming system. | 12 aromatic and medicinal plants have been identified as being compatible with the pedoclimatic and social conditions of the study areas. <i>Tambourrissa</i> is proven to be compatible. The study to show the AMP adapted for each village is in progress |
| 9. Production and harvesting of aromatic and medicinal plants are compliant with the protected area management rules. | Potential buyers who will collect aromatic and medicinal plants require organic products, which is in accordance with the law governing Protected Areas. We always ensure that the plants comply with CITES, and that collections are not made from hard cores. |
| 10. The process to register a cooperative remains simple and straightforward for communities. | Verified: We collaborate with the DIRCC Ambatondrazaka and they really help us, the certificates were obtained without problem and the cooperatives as well as the local community appreciated |

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction

The project impact is: “Madagascar’s lemurs secured within their natural habitats thanks to strong local stewardship and a favourable social, economic, and political environment”.

We are in the process of writing the impact of the youth project which will be available in May 2024. The data still needs to be collected and refined, and this impact report will show: the social impacts (commitment and responsibility taken by young people in local activities, access to services, access to care and improvement of the health sector, access to education and improvement of the education sector, improvement of the standard of living of communities within the framework of food and travel), economic impacts (job creation, economic diversification, increase in household income), environmental impacts (commitment and conservation efforts, direct benefits for lemurs, reduction of local threats). But in the meantime, we focus on the fact and the expectations.

During the lifetime of the project, we expect that 200 youths (at least 40% girls) will be totally convinced of the importance of sustainable farming techniques as a powerful means to improve

their livelihoods without harming biodiversity. We hope to see these youths continue to develop a strong personal commitment to promoting lemur conservation within their community and become young lemur conservation ambassadors: actively engaging their communities to improve their farming techniques, protect and restore forests; raising awareness to stop hunting lemurs and promoting the sustainable harvesting and equitable trade of aromatic and medicinal plant species. These youths will report that with the improved farming techniques, they can produce or buy enough food annually, and with the harvesting and trade of aromatic and medicinal species, they start building reserves for emergencies. By the end of the project, we expect to see at least another 250 households adopt the techniques used by youths, and five community cooperatives to be established, securing a 'value-added' market for 'lemur-friendly' produce with at least three private enterprises, increasing mutual trust between community members and improving social cohesion. But now we have already recorded 308 households adopting the techniques and 05 functional cooperatives ensuring the expected roles.

We also expect to see a forest conservation and restoration plan to be established and starting to be implemented in each village, under trained youths' leadership. 05 conservation and restoration plans have already been signed and are ready for use.

As a result, by the end of the project, each protected area's management effectiveness score will increase compared to the 2021 baseline, when evaluated with the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool.

As the youth-led lemur conservation efforts gain momentum, and community commitment to preserve and restore the forest grows, we expect that the reductions in forest loss will be maintained over the long term and that lemur populations will even increase, as hunting is reduced, and the habitats improve. We expect that the number of community members practising improved sustainable agriculture will gradually increase over time as the youth cooperatives grow in effectiveness and reach and as people observe tangible economic benefits of their sustainable practises. When combined with an increased awareness of the value of the local forest and wildlife, widespread uptake of sustainable higher yielding techniques should result in more families able to meet their needs without having to resort to destructive slash and burn agriculture or wildlife poaching. Increased access to improved markets should also result in more families able to increase their income. The ultimate change will be that lemurs in these three reserves are secured within their natural habitat.

The project will contribute to the higher level impact on biodiversity conservation and human development by demonstrating a model for parallel sustainable livelihood improvement and bio-diversity conservation that can be replicated in other areas.

The youth-led model is enabling young people to work as role models in their local communities. Youth ambassadors are already raising community awareness of the value of maintaining the forest and biodiversity for maintaining and improving their own livelihoods. To date, where awareness raising has occurred, community members have become more aware of the importance of the conservation of biodiversity, especially lemurs and how this can be achieved in conjunction with improved livelihood development. Indeed, the demonstration plots of the youth teams demonstrate to all the villagers that it is not necessary to practice slash and burn agriculture to improve yields but it is just necessary to increase and then maintain the fertility of the soil through, easy to adopt, improved agricultural practices. The new agricultural practices have the double benefit of improving yield and production, whilst also mitigating the effects of climate change.

The existence of cooperatives also improves the standard of living of young people by: increasing their weight and negotiating power, increasing partnership choices and obtaining market information. The sales contracts will then ensure on the one hand the improvement of their standard of living, on the other hand the increase in the sums dedicated to the lemurs. The conservation premium is intended to provide a contractual incentive to the youth Groups to continue with their improved agricultural practices and local conservation work beyond the project end.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project contributes to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) thanks to its contribution to the NBSAP through youth initiatives to lead conservation in the East Coast of Madagascar and community awareness on the importance of lemurs and their habitats

This project will contribute to achieving four of the 20 objectives in this plan: #1 (by 2025, policymakers and 65% of the Malagasy people are aware of the value of biodiversity and the measures they can take to protect and use it sustainably), #2 (by 2025, biodiversity values, opportunities and benefits of conservation and sustainable use will be recognized and integrated into the country's socioeconomic development activities), #3 (by 2025, positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources will be developed and applied), and #4 (by 2025, the extinction of endangered species is reduced, and their conservation status improved).

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project aims first to improve the income of young professionals aged 14-30 who tend to depend on the forest because of poverty. Then, these young people will share new sustainable agricultural techniques with the community in the target areas so that they turn to adopt sustainable agriculture, increase production and improve incomes.

In addition, the project also creates temporary jobs for households, especially during lean periods thanks to involving local community members during each fieldwork such as porters, cooks and other tasks requiring labour.

In addition, the project also created jobs in a direct and indirect manner. For example, young people in Ambodirotra learned to build toilets, repair houses and paint thanks to theoretical and practical training and monitoring on mini-projects. So, apart from agricultural activities, they are now also working as carpenters to increase their income.

Young people in the PK axis and in Lakato have also become merchants because agricultural production has increased and there are leftovers for sale.

In Mangabe, young people and villagers have become sellers of rice seeds and bee colonies.

The project also contributes to long-term poverty reduction through various trainings such as leadership, management and future production plans that will change the bad behaviour and management of the local community and help them take better decisions about their practices.

The 05 cooperatives created will also allow not only young people but also communities to identify markets and sell products at reasonable prices. This will direct the household production plan, avoid risks or contingencies that may arise (increase or expense or decrease of production) and improve their income.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

| | |
|--|---|
| Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ . | 54% (MV staff: 6/14, Mitsinjo Staff: 1/4, Label CBD Staff: 4/4, MfM Staff: 2/2) |
| Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² . | 3/4 |

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

| GESI Scale | Description | Put X where you think your project is on the scale |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Not yet sensitive | The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach | |
| Sensitive | The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities. | X |
| Empowering | The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups | |
| Transformative | The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change | |

Before project launch, meetings with local authorities were held to find effective ways to involve women in the project. Home awareness raising sessions were even carried out by the local authorities to convince the women and households concerned to involve women more in the project. At the start of the project, awareness raising sessions on gender equality were carried out.

Thanks to these efforts, women represent 42.44% of the young people. These women will first receive all the training, then apply it, they will then serve as role models for other women to encourage them to take initiatives at the community level.

In Andasibe, we have 72.22% women because awareness raising on the participation and commitment of women has already been done even before the project. In addition, the level of study is high in Andasibe and they are more open minded with regards to gender roles. But we still need a lot of effort for the other areas because the majority of women are still considered to be housewives. Young people are currently convincing them to understand the importance of gender equality through awareness raising.

When the cooperatives were created, even if men always wanted to occupy all the places on the Board of Directors, we did everything to ensure that there were women. For the next steps or the next projects, we will not only give place to women but also to marginalized groups.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

After each mission, MfM takes care of the monitoring and evaluation for Madagasikara Voakajy, Mitsinjo and Label CBD, focusing on the evolution of activities in relation to the project objectives. During the meetings, the team checks progress by referring to the logframe (impact, outcome, output, activities), to the Theory of Change (ToC) and to the project document. Progress is checked in relation to the allocated project timeframe. The evaluation consists of checking activities and outputs against the measurable indicators obtained. MfM makes sure that the means of verification comply with the identified indicators and checks that satisfactory progress is being made in relation to each activity.

Meetings were organized to evaluate the project and consider Darwin's feedback in August 2022 and September 2023. 02 meetings were also held in March 2024 to prepare the year 3 report and assess the achievement of objectives. MfM provided support to the technical team for data acquisition and recording.

A series of working sessions with the technical team were carried out for this quarter in order to support the collection and recording of data and to prepare the annual technical report of the project.

8. Lessons learnt

Good communication between the partners helped a lot in carrying out the project activities. Monthly meetings between partners should always continue apart from phone calls and direct communications. This communication was also reinforced with the local community to avoid rumours.

The involvement of local authorities, especially the mayor, also really helped during the start-up of the project at the local level because it facilitated awareness-raising, especially the involvement of women.

Innovative projects such as aromatic and medicinal plants are of great interest to the youth teams and the community, which makes it easier to capture their attention.

Training on processing, conservation and packaging techniques for agricultural products involves not only young people but also the entire community by adding value to agricultural products.

Participation in the “Tsenabe Miray” agricultural fair opened many horizons for young people, allowing them to reflect on the market and better adjust their business plan within cooperatives.

The educational trip to Antananarivo was very beneficial even if the young people have not yet been able to sign contracts because it allowed them to understand the benefits of sustainable farming techniques and become familiar with the market.

The main difficulty encountered during the last quarter of year 3 lies in planning exchanges between young people and potential clients. The month of January to March coincides with the organic certification audit periods, particularly for the company AROMA SOURCE.

For the case of Ravensara, to date, we have identified a single area with a single base allowing us to obtain the essential oil profile sought by the potential customer. This would not make it possible to multiply the species at present. The LABEL CBD team will have to continue its prospecting to confirm the feasibility of integrating the resource into the young people's plots.

Overall, the negotiations are progressing very slowly since potential buyers for aromatic and medicinal plants require the production of samples of products in order to set the prices, as these are determined by the quality and analysis results. Due to poor infrastructure in Madagascar, the communication of information to the young people and their response, as well as the actual production of samples often involves long delays, which slow the process considerably. It is then recommended to develop a precise collection point with the communities.

Another significant challenge is the arrival of migrants from the south of Mangabe Reserve in need of land to support their families. They are practising slash-and-burn agriculture and not willing to respond to the youth teams. There have been several potentially violent clashes and the security forces have had to be involved. In December 2023, the delinquents attacked the villages, targeting all nature defenders, especially patrollers, young people and our local agents. Houses were burned, all property was looted and young people were injured. The others fled their villages for their safety. Interventions by the gendarmerie in January 2024 temporarily eased the tension. And the team has already alerted all the authorities in Moramanga (District, CIREF, Gendarmerie) between January and March 2024. A meeting of the latter to deal with the case is currently under negotiation. But in the meantime, the young people had to stop all conservation activities in Mangabe Reserve to avoid any unnecessary altercations until further notice.

9. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

After receiving feedback from Darwin about the annual report, the team met to apply it. Thus, the young people participated in various events on the conservation of lemurs and biodiversity to raise awareness but also to show their commitment. In all these activities, we put forward the supports showing that the project was funded by Darwin (polo shirt, banners).

A discussion to really define the impacts and successes of the project as well as the direct link between the project of young people and lemurs was carried out. In this context, databases have been rectified and data to quantify the project's contribution to the impact are being collected.

All partners have also started publishing articles on the project highlighting Darwin on their websites and social networks. Safeguarding was also considered of high importance.

10. Risk Management

Despite the conservation efforts of the young people and the authorities, offenses still persist because illegal migrants thirsty for cultivable plots are practicing illegal activities. These migrants even loot the villages and threaten the local people. In this context, patrollers are afraid to conduct patrol for their safety because migrants are willing to resort to violence to protect their slash and burn agriculture and extend their cultivable plots. In addition, they do not want to discuss the issues and are not interested to learn about biodiversity conservation or sustainable agriculture. Young people and local communities have already made complaints to the competent authorities but their capacity to respond has been very limited.

The delinquents did not just attack the villages but they also threatened all the defenders of nature. A risk of a new attack is still to be considered despite local negotiations and the interventions of the Gendarmes. Many people have already been arrested but many are still at large. Safety instructions to prevent this have already been given to the communities. Between January and March 2024.

Regarding AMP, the collection price of companies ready to commit did not satisfy young people. We looked for new partners and we are in the process of negotiating with the UEBT or Union for Ethical Bio Trade for the sustainable collection of AMPs and the adoption of fair trade (<https://uebt.org/>).

10. Sustainability and legacy

Our exit strategy is still valid. This project is designed to change people's habits and behaviour in a long term. The goal is to make conservation farming the new tradition. We will thus strengthen our partnership with Mitsinjo for the initiatives in Andasibe, and Conservation International for the initiatives in Ankeniheny in order to ensure sustainable conservation in the targeted areas. As has been done before, a search for additional funding will be carried out to ensure the continuity and sustainability of activities.

11. Darwin Initiative identity

During all our interventions, the Darwin logo was always present. However, we participated in many events already mentioned above. Partners especially the authorities always wear polo shirts showing the Darwin logos during national events.

Project developments have been published on Madagasikara Voakajy's website, Twitter and Facebook accounts.

The Malagasy government, all partners, young people and local communities recognize that the project and the impacts of the project are visible thanks to funding from Darwin Initiative.

The project is also special because it is the only one to create youth cooperatives in the Alaotra-Mangoro Region. And the Minister of Industry himself was mainly impressed by the initiative during his visit to Moramanga in June 2024.

12. Safeguarding

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| Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months? | Yes |
| Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months | Yes |
| Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point? | Yes/ Harilefitra [REDACTED] the project coordinator is the project focal point too, [REDACTED] |
| Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months? | Yes |
| What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding? | Past: 58% Planned: 42% |
| Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. It is necessary to plan all the actions to be taken in the event of an attack | |
| Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. Yes, we will bring the whole team together in June 2024 to discuss and further strengthen Safeguarding | |
| Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants. Monthly, youth team members run awareness campaigns in their villages on sustainable farming, cooperatives, biodiversity stewardship and other aspects of development according to the needs of the community (see appendix for the list of all awareness-raising activities, theme and number of people sensitized) | |
| Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved. Yes, during the attack in December 2023, young people were injured and the entire local community is not safe. The intervention of the gendarmes since December 2023 and awareness rising by the District representative and CIREF Moramanga in March 2024 calmed the situation. | |

13. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

| Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report | 2023/24 Grant (£) | 2023/24 Total Darwin Costs (£) | Variance % | Comments (please explain significant variances) |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|---|
| Staff costs (see below) | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | |
| Consultancy costs | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | |
| Overhead Costs | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | |
| Travel and subsistence | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | |
| Operating Costs | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | |
| Capital items (see below) | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | |

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| Others (see below) | - | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | |

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

| | Secured to date | Expected by end of project | Sources |
|--|---|----------------------------|---------|
| Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£) | We did not get any matched funding during this period | | |
| Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£) | | | |

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

12. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

| File Type (Image / Video / Graphic) | File Name or File Location | Caption including description, country and credit | Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none) | Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024

| | | |
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| <p>Impact</p> <p>Madagascar's lemurs secured within their natural habitats thanks to strong local stewardship and a favourable social, economic, and political environment.</p> | <p>During the lifetime of the project, we expect that 200 youths (at least 40% girls) will be totally convinced of the importance of sustainable farming techniques as a powerful means to improve their livelihoods without harming biodiversity. We hope to see these youths continue to develop a strong personal commitment to promoting lemur conservation within their community and become young lemur conservation ambassadors: actively engaging their communities to improve their farming techniques, protect and restore forests; raising awareness to stop hunting lemurs and promoting the sustainable harvesting and equitable trade of aromatic and medicinal plant species. These youths will report that with the improved farming techniques, they can produce or buy enough food annually, and with the harvesting and trade of aromatic and medicinal species, they start building reserves for emergencies. By the end of the project, we expect to see at least another 250 households adopt the techniques used by youths, and five community cooperatives to be established, securing a 'value-added' market for 'lemur-friendly' produce with at least three private enterprises, increasing mutual trust between community members and improving social cohesion. But now we have already recorded 308 households adopting the techniques and 05 functional cooperatives ensuring the expected roles.</p> <p>We also expect to see a forest conservation and restoration plan to be established and starting to be implemented in each village, under trained youths' leadership. 05 conservation and restoration plans have already been signed and are ready for use.</p> <p>As a result, by the end of the project, each protected area's management effectiveness score will increase compared to the 2021 baseline, when evaluated with the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool.</p> | |
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| Outcome | | |
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| Appropriately trained youths around Analamazaotra, Ankeniheny, and Mangabe Reserves enabled to demonstrate effective local conservation stewardship while driving social and economic development through sustainable farming and collaboration with private sector | | |
| Outcome indicator 0.1: By June 2024, 200 youths (40% women) adopt composting and crop diversification on their existing plots, have plans for improvements, and report higher yields and increased income from these plots compared to the 2021 baseline. | 245 youths are registered in the project. 104 are women, (42.44 %), 239 of these young people have adopted sustainable agricultural techniques (Annex 08 List and details about the young people) (Annex 09 Yield in Moramanga) | Collection of remaining youth production data and analysis of performance against 2021 baselines |
| Outcome indicator 0.2: 1.2 By 2023, youth-led cooperatives are established in twenty villages, markets for sustainably farmed and harvested products are secured with private enterprises, and an average net benefit of £10 per person per month is generated, in addition to a total of £30 per cooperative per month for biodiversity conservation. | 05 youth-led cooperatives established in 21 villages (Annex 10 Cooperatives Registration Certificate) and 05 business plans signed showing production and market orientation (Annex 11 Business plan Conservation plan of cooperatives). 07 companies have been negotiated and 02 are already working with the cooperatives (Annex 04), the cooperatives have already obtained production and have been able to sell some products during the fair in Moramanga and always continue to improve their business plan | Follow the cooperatives' management plan, support them in implementing their business plans, exhibit the cooperatives' products in 02 stores (ORTALMA and Mitsinjo) and help them find sales contracts |
| Outcome indicator 0.3: By June 2024, 50% of other households in the target villages demonstrate increased knowledge on sustainable farming techniques, entrepreneurship, and conservation stewardship, and are willing to join the cooperatives. | 10 people have already joined the cooperative in Andasibe, 326 adoptions of sustainable agricultural techniques by 308 households have been collected (Annex 07) | Continue to collect adoptions of sustainable agricultural techniques, carry out surveys on the evolution of the community knowledge on sustainable farming techniques, entrepreneurship, and conservation stewardship Update cooperatives |
| Outcome indicator 0.4: From 2023, infractions reported by forest patrollers and the frequency and extent of forest loss alerts are reduced by 50% compared to the 2020 baseline (data being collected by Global Forest Watch and from the patrol reports) | We are in the process of collecting data | Collect and analyze data by Global Forest Watch |
| Outcome indicator 0.5: Targeted Reserves have higher scores when evaluated with the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (https://tinyurl.com/y6tp7ax3) compared to the | We are in the process of evaluating | Evaluate Mangabe and Andasibe with the METT |

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| baseline to be established for 2021 | | |
| Output 1: 200 youths take steps to move towards sustainable farming techniques in Analamazaotra, Ankeniheny and Mangabe, including composting, agroforestry and crop diversification | | |
| Output indicator 1.1: 15 established and five new youth teams with 8-12 members each (40% women) register to participate in the project by March 2022. | The 15 established youth teams and the 05 new teams are still maintained (Annex 08) | |
| Output indicator 1.2: 200 youths, 40% women, attend three days annual training on sustainable farming and their link with lemur conservation from July 2022. | 324 youths from 21 villages including 132 women attended 3 days of training on sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural techniques (Annex 12 Training received) | |
| Output indicator 1.3: Characteristics of each youths' existing field are described, and a development plan established by November 2022. | All existing demonstration plots were characterized (Annex 13 Results of characterization of all demonstration plots) and each group was able to establish a production plan (Annex 14 Production plan for youth teams) | |
| Output indicator 1.4: Members of youth teams from 20 villages receive material support and 12 sessions of 3 days mentoring on sustainable farming to adopt sustainable farming techniques on their own fields (2 in 2022, 6 in 2023 and 4 in 2024) | 17 youth teams have fully received their support, the distribution of the material support remainder is in progress for the 04 teams in Andasibe (35%) (Annex 01), monitoring-evaluation of the techniques adopted is carried out every 03 months since the training in August 2022 | |
| Output indicator 1.5: By December 2023, all members of the youth teams report increased yields and higher profit from the fields where sustainable farming have been adopted and have plans to improve in the next season. | At each harvest, data was collected at the demonstration plots, the analysis on the increase in yield will be done after the collection of production for the main harvest season in April May 2024 (Annex 09) | Collection of data on production in April May 2024 then analysis of the data |
| Output 2: Production of aromatic and medicinal plants becomes part of youths' farming system | | |
| Output indicator 2.1: By December 2021, 3-5 useful aromatic and medicinal plants that are compatible with the farming system and can be harvested sustainably from the wild are identified. | 12 AMPs identified as exploitable in 2022 (Annex 15 AMP detail) | |
| Output indicator 2.2: From January 2022, youths start growing | For the moment, each youh team has already been | Search for other AMPs for |

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| the aromatic and medicinal plants in their fields. | able to set up their nurseries for the multiplication of AMP before transplanting in their respective fields. But only <i>Tambourrissa</i> has been selected to be adopted in the fields until now (Annex 05) | nurseries Planting Tambourrissa at demonstration plots and individual plots |
| Output indicator 2.3: From 2022, availability of each targeted product is assessed annually. | Series of annual studies on the AMP abundance have been carried out since 2022 (Annex 16 AMP Availability) | |
| Output indicator 2.4: By December 2022, youths are trained in handling the products. | 172 youths and 21 focal points were trained on drying AMPs and handling products (Annex 12) | |
| Output indicator 2.5: By March 2023, a business model for sustainable production, harvesting, and trade of each targeted product is developed. | 03 AMPs were selected and business models for centella, ravensara and tambourrissa is being finalized | Finalize the 03 business models and develop other business plans for other interesting AMPs |
| Output 03: Youth-led cooperatives are established to drive social and economic development and biodiversity stewardship in the villages | | |
| Output indicator 3.1: By March 2023, all youth team members attend three days training on entrepreneurship, cooperative management and marketing. | 235 youths have already received training on entrepreneurship, cooperative management and marketing (Annex 12) | Continue to support youths, especially the Cooperatives Boards of Directors, on these themes but further encourage practices |
| Output indicator 3.2: By June 2023, youth teams are registered as local cooperatives aiming to bring social and economic development and ensure biodiversity conservation. | 05 cooperatives are in place and functional (Annex 03) (Annex 17 List of members and boards of directors of cooperatives) and carry out conservation and development activities (Annex 11) | Continue to support cooperatives for their activities |
| Output indicator 3.3: By December 2023, the cooperatives start generating benefits for each member and allocating funds for the cooperative's functions. | The 05 cooperatives started to earn money during the "Tsenabe Miray" fair in Moramanga (250,000 Ar in total), but the funds to be generated will depend on the signing after the negotiations (Annex 04), sales contracts and the orientation in the business plan (Annex 11) | Support cooperatives in signing contracts and selling products |
| Output 04: Three private enterprises, engaged in sustainability, commit to sourcing products from the youth-led cooperatives and support their development as a business and biodiversity steward entity in the villages | | |
| Output indicator 4.1: By March 2022, a list of potential partner enterprises is elaborated, indicating their needs, the | A list of potential companies with all the details is established, but this list is not yet closed (Annex 04) | Continue to feed the databases about the companies |

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| pros, and cons of collaborating with them. | | |
| Output indicator 4.2: By December 2022, five enterprises agree to explore collaboration with the youth teams in 2023. | 14 companies agreed to collaborate with the cooperatives (Annex 04) | Discuss with cooperatives the feasibility of partnerships and continue negotiations |
| Output indicator 4.3: By December 2023, a procurement agreement is signed between the youth-led cooperatives and three private enterprises, including a bonus provided for the fulfilment of an identified conservation stewardship plan. | 01 sales contract is signed with ORTLAMA Moramanga (Annex 18 ORTALMA Signed contract) | Continue negotiations including conservation bonuses |
| Output indicator 4.4: By June 2024, agreements with the private sector generate 50% additional income for the cooperatives, compared to normal market. | We are still focusing on the negotiation and signing of contracts to ensure the realization of the cooperatives' business plan. | Negotiate sales contracts, sell cooperative products, analyze profit shares |
| Output 05: Youths engage other community members in sustainable farming, cooperatives and biodiversity stewardship | | |
| Output indicator 5.1: Annually, youth team members receive training on communication, leadership, social skills, and awareness techniques. | 235 youths received training on communication, leadership, social skills, and awareness techniques (Annex 12). And after the training, reminders were carried out every 3 months during field trips | |
| Output indicator 5.2: Monthly, youth team members run awareness campaigns in their villages on sustainable farming, cooperatives, and biodiversity stewardship. | 356 awareness raising on sustainable agricultural techniques, cooperatives and biodiversity conservation were carried out at the level of the 21 villages by the youth teams (Annex 06) | Continue awareness raising, assist and support youths |
| Output indicator 5.3: From January 2023, 20-30 additional households adopt sustainable farming annually. | From January 2023, 308 additional households adopt sustainable farming annually thanks to the awareness campaign run by the youth team (Annex 07) | Continue to collect data about the sustainable farming techniques adoption |
| Output indicator 5.4: By March 2024, 10-20 new members join the youths' cooperatives. | 10 cooperatives new members have been registered | Continue raising awareness about the membership of new members |
| Output indicator 5.5: By June 2024, a youth-led biodiversity conservation and restoration plan is established in each village with all community members. | A youth-led biodiversity conservation and restoration plan was established in each cooperative and these plans are functional in each village with all community members (Annex 11) | Support youth teams in implementing plans, and continue surveys on community motivation to participate in the plan |

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|--|---|--|---|
| Impact: Madagascar's lemurs secured within their natural habitats thanks to strong local stewardship and a favourable social, economic, and political environment. | | | |
| Outcome: Appropriately trained youths around Analamazaotra, Ankeniheny, and Mangabe Reserves enabled to demonstrate effective local conservation stewardship while driving social and economic development through sustainable farming and collaboration with private sector | 1.1 By June 2024, 200 youths (40% women) adopt composting and crop diversification on their existing plots, have plans for improvements, and report higher yields and increased income from these plots compared to the 2021 baseline. 1.2 By 2023, youth-led cooperatives are established in twenty villages, markets for sustainably farmed and harvested products are secured with private enterprises, and an average net benefit of £10 per person per month is generated, in addition to a total of £30 per cooperative per month for biodiversity conservation. 1.3 By June 2024, 50% of other households in the target villages demonstrate increased knowledge on sustainable farming techniques, entrepreneurship, and conservation stewardship, and are willing to join the cooperatives. 1.4 From 2023, infractions reported by forest patrollers and the frequency and extent of forest loss alerts are reduced by 50% compared to the 2020 baseline (data being collected by Global Forest Watch and from the patrol reports) 1.5 Targeted Reserves have higher scores when evaluated with the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (https://tinyurl.com/y6tp7ax3) compared to the baseline to be established for 2021 | 1.1 Youths' interview and agricultural survey report 1.2 Copies of cooperatives' registration certificates, agreements between cooperatives and private enterprises, and cashbooks 1.3 Household surveys at the villages where youth team members live. 1.4 Forest patrol reports and weekly forest cover loss alerts summary 1.5 METT annual evaluation report for each Reserve | 1. Potential political, economic, or social crisis will not have impacts on youths' ability to farm and sell their products in the markets. 2. Natural hazards will not totally damage crops in the project area. 3. The Global Forest Watch platform (https://www.globalforestwatch.org/) continues to operate and provide daily and weekly forest cover loss alerts. 4. No rush for gold or other gems happens in the project area. 5. The Malagasy Government continues to highlight the need to conserve and restore biodiversity in Madagascar and will act accordingly |

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| <p>Output 1</p> <p>200 youths take steps to move towards sustainable farming techniques in Analamazaotra, Ankeniheny and Mangabe, including composting, agroforestry and crop diversification</p> | <p>1.1 15 established and five new youth teams with 8-12 members each (40% women) register to participate in the project by March 2022.</p> <p>1.2 200 youths, 40% women, attend three days annual training on sustainable farming and their link with lemur conservation from July 2022.</p> <p>1.3 Characteristics of each youths' existing field are described, and a development plan established by November 2022.</p> <p>1.4 Members of youth teams from 20 villages receive material support and 12 sessions of 3 days mentoring on sustainable farming to adopt sustainable farming techniques on their own fields (2 in 2022, 6 in 2023 and 4 in 2024)</p> <p>1.5 By December 2023, all members of the youth teams report increased yields and higher profit from the fields where sustainable farming have been adopted and have plans to improve in the next season</p> | <p>1.1 Youth team members register</p> <p>1.2 Training course records and attendance certificate</p> <p>1.3 Database on youths' field characteristics, current yield, and development plan</p> <p>1.4 Support and mentoring activity report and attendance sheets</p> <p>1.5 Youth interview report and update of the database on field characteristics and yields (Indicator 1.</p> | <p>6. Identification of field characteristics will not be hampered by rumours of land grabbing.</p> <p>7. Yields are not damaged by natural hazards such as the weather, diseases, or pests.</p> |
| <p>Output 2</p> | | | |

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| <p>Production of aromatic and medicinal plants becomes part of youths' farming system</p> | <p>2.1 By December 2021, 3-5 useful aromatic and medicinal plants that are compatible with the farming system and can be harvested sustainably from the wild are identified. 2.2 From January 2022, youths start growing the aromatic and medicinal plants in their fields. 2.3 From 2022, availability of each targeted product is assessed annually. 2.4 By December 2022, youths are trained in handling the products. 2.5 By March 2023, a business model for sustainable production, harvesting, and trade of each targeted product is developed.</p> | <p>2.1 Useful aromatic and medicinal plant identification process report. 2.2 Photos of the fields with the aromatic and medicinal plants. 2.3 Database and report on aromatic and medicinal availability assessment. 2.4 Training report and photos of products. 2.5 Copies of the business model document</p> | <p>8. At least 3 useful aromatic and medicinal plants are identified as compatible with the farming system. 9. Production and harvesting of aromatic and medicinal plants are compliant with the protected area management rules.</p> |
| <p>Output 3</p> <p>Youth-led cooperatives are established to drive social and economic development and biodiversity stewardship in the villages</p> | <p>3.1 By March 2023, all youth team members attend three days training on entrepreneurship, cooperative management and marketing. 3.2 By June 2023, youth teams are registered as local cooperatives aiming to bring social and economic development and ensure biodiversity conservation. 3.3 By December 2023, the cooperatives start generating benefits for each member and allocating funds for the cooperative's functions.</p> | <p>3.1 Training report 3.2 Cooperatives' statutes and registration certificates 3.3 Copies of cooperatives' cashbook, activity report and members' register</p> | <p>10. The process to register a cooperative remains simple and straightforward for communities. 11. We assume that youths will start and will continue to lead the cooperatives</p> |
| <p>Output 4</p> | | | |

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| <p>Three private enterprises, engaged in sustainability, commit to sourcing products from the youth-led cooperatives and support their development as a business and biodiversity steward entity in the villages</p> | <p>4.1 By March 2022, a list of potential partner enterprises is elaborated, indicating their needs, the pros, and cons of collaborating with them</p> <p>4.2 By December 2022, five enterprises agree to explore collaboration with the youth teams in 2023.</p> <p>4.3 By December 2023, a procurement agreement is signed between the youth-led cooperatives and three private enterprises, including a bonus provided for the fulfilment of an identified conservation stewardship plan.</p> <p>4.4 By June 2024, agreements with the private sector generate 50% additional income for the cooperatives, compared to normal market.</p> | <p>4.1 Potential partner enterprises assessment review</p> <p>4.2 Report of meetings between the youth team members and the enterprises</p> <p>4.3 Copies of the procurement agreements</p> <p>4.4 Copy of the cooperatives' cashbook and prices comparison database</p> | <p>12. No political, economic, or social crisis slows down or stop the development of aromatic and medicinal enterprises.</p> <p>13. The current trend to prefer natural and organic products in Madagascar and worldwide continues and raises the value of the targeted plants</p> |
| <p>Output 5</p> | | | |

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| <p>Youths engage other community members in sustainable farming, cooperatives and biodiversity stewardship</p> | <p>5.1 Annually, youth team members receive training on communication, leadership, social skills, and awareness techniques. 5.2 Monthly, youth team members run awareness campaigns in their villages on sustainable farming, cooperatives, and biodiversity stewardship. 5.3 From January 2023, 20-30 additional households adopt sustainable farming annually. 5.4 By March 2024, 10-20 new members join the youths' cooperatives. 5.5 By June 2024, a youth-led biodiversity conservation and restoration plan is established in each village with all community members.</p> | <p>5.1 Training report and attendance sheet 5.2 Youths' activity reports 5.3 Household and field survey report 5.4 Cooperatives' activity report 5.5 Copies of the biodiversity conservation and restoration plan for each village</p> | <p>14. The government maintains the protection of the three targeted areas. 15. The local authorities will effectively respond in case of infractions reported by the communities. 16. MV, Mitsinjo and CI will secure additional funds to match the cooperatives' income to support elaboration and implementation of the conservation stewardship activities.</p> |
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Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

- 0.1 Project team inception meeting (July 2021)
- 0.2 Recruit MV's additional staff (July – September 2021)
- 0.3 Annual METT evaluation
- 0.4 Training on using Global Forest Watch platform for monitoring forest loss and fire,
- 0.5 Monthly patrols by youths and local patrollers
- 0.6 Project monthly calls
- 0.7 Project quarterly meetings
- 0.8 Project reporting and communications
- 1.1 Launch the project at the villages through community meetings, focus groups and one-to-one discussions (August-October 2021),
- 1.2 Collect annual data on agricultural practices adopted by communities at each village (November – March annually),
- 1.3 Recruit and train focal points at the target villages (October – November 2021, then monthly training/meeting),
- 1.4 Provide initial training for all youths interested in participating in the project (November – December 2021),
- 1.5 Register youths who will continue to participate in the project (January – March 2022),
- 1.6 Locate and assess characteristics of youths' fields (April – June 2022),
- 1.7 Develop a production plan for youths' fields (July – September 2022),
- 1.8 Provide material support, training and mentoring for youths to implement the agreed production plan (from October 2022),
- 1.9 Monitor yields of youths and other community members (from January 2023)

- 2.1 Literature review, community interview, field surveys and market study to identify the candidate aromatic and medicinal plant species that should be considered in this project (August – December 2021),
- 2.2 Assess feasibility of growing the targeted species in the fields and at the nurseries (November 2021 – October 2022),
- 2.3 Assess availability of each product in the fields and in the wild annually from 2022
- 2.4 Train youths to handle the products (April – December 2022),
- 2.5 Assess fair price for the products and develop a sustainable harvesting model (from May 2022 – March 2023).

- 3.1 Train youth team members on entrepreneurship, cooperative management and marketing (January-March 2023)
- 3.2 Accompany the youths to establish and register the cooperative (April-June 2023)
- 3.3 Accompany youth cooperatives to develop simplified business plan (July-September 2023)
- 3.4 Monitor youth cooperative's management and function (quarterly from October 2023)

- 4.1 Identify potential partner enterprises indicating their needs, the pros, and cons of collaborating with them (January-March 2022)
- 4.2 Help youth prospect markets and facilitate negotiation with five enterprises to explore collaboration with them in 2023 (October-December 2022).
- 4.3 Develop and sign contracts between youth cooperatives and three private enterprises including reference to biodiversity stewardship commitments (June-December 2023)
- 4.4 Develop action plan to implement the contracts (January-June 2024)

- 5.1 Train youth team members on communication, leadership, social skills, and awareness techniques (annually from 2022),
- 5.2 Monitor and attend awareness campaigns by youth teams in their villages on sustainable farming, cooperatives. and biodiversity stewardship (monthly from 2023),
- 5.3 Annually review the list of the cooperative members
- 5.4 Support youth teams to develop and start implementing a youth-led biodiversity conservation and restoration plan in each village with all community members (March-June 2024),
- 5.5 Assess communities' engagement to implement the conservation and restoration plan

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

| DI Indicator number | Name of indicator | Units | Disaggregation | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| | Capability and Capacity | | | | | | | |
| DI-A01 | Number of people from key local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training | People | Gender: | | | | | |
| | | Proportion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men • Women | 159 122 | 152 93 | 141 104 | | 120 80 |
| | | | Training typology | | | | | |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable farming techniques • AMP collect and handling product • Speculation of choice (Agriculture or livestock) • Awareness techniques • Communication, social skills, leadership, entrepreneurship, marketing • Cooperative management • Food processing and preservation techniques | 50% 25% 25% | 25% 25% 25% | 25% 25% | | |
| DIA03 | Number of local Organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project. | Number of organisations | Organisation Type | | | | | |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth group | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 20 |

| DI Indicator number | Name of indicator | Units | Disaggregation | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | |

In addition to reporting any information on publications under relevant standard indicators, in Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. You should include publications as supporting materials with your report. Mark with an asterisk (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2 Publications

| Title | Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs) | Detail (authors, year) | Gender of Lead Author | Nationality of Lead Author | Publishers (name, city) | Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online) |
|--|--|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| FOREST RESTORATION IN THE MANGABERANOMENA - SAHASAROTRA PROTECTED AREA | Website | Voahirana Claudia RANDRIAMAMONJY, 2023 | Women | Malagasy | Lauréa Francia SAMOELAH, Antananarivo, Madagascar | https://www.madagasikara-voakajy.org/blog/forest-restoration-in-the-mangaberanomena-sahasarotra-protected-area?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR3X-J6rxedJW_f9PJIOYhi7X27kDhL1rfOLag3ViXaO1EgC0RXpzzCHllw_aem_Afe9v4v5a7LjYiB6kZ4EZ3-kdostrU_AwHGHNywSCF4B_fNHVrzWZb_x5pb-FIOXrumIDuQH9BNQm3vv77YwBOLd |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-------|----------|--|---|
| FOREST RESTORATION IN THE MANGABE-RANOMENA - SAHASAROTRA PROTECTED AREA | Facebook | Voahirana Claudia RANDRIAMAMO NJY, 2023 | Women | Malagasy | Voahirana Claudia RANDRIAMAMO NJY, Moramanga, Madagascar | https://www.facebook.com/madagasikaravoakajy posted on April 06, 2023 |
| Participation in Tsenabe Miray Regional Fair | Facebook | Voahirana Claudia RANDRIAMAMO NJY, 2023 | Women | Malagasy | Voahirana Claudia RANDRIAMAMO NJY, Moramanga, Madagascar | https://www.facebook.com/madagasikaravoakajy Posted on June 23, 2023 |
| Chester Zoo Expedition in Mangabe | Facebook | Voahirana Claudia RANDRIAMAMO NJY, 2023 | Women | Malagasy | Voahirana Claudia RANDRIAMAMO NJY, Moramanga, Madagascar | https://www.facebook.com/madagasikaravoakajy Posted on July 04, 2023 |
| YOUTH PROJECT FOLLOW-UP MEETING | Facebook | Saroy RASOLOSON | Women | Malagasy | Saroy RASOLOSON, Antananarivo Madagascar | https://www.facebook.com/LabelCBD Posted on September 29, 2023 |
| RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT LEMURS | Video in Facebook | Ministry of Environment, 2023 | Women | Malagasy | Voahirana Claudia RANDRIAMAMO NJY, Moramanga, Madagascar | https://www.facebook.com/madagasikaravoakajy Posted on October 26, 2023 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|--------|-----------|---|---|
| NATIONAL LEMUR DAY 3RD EDITION: 27TH OCTOBER 2023 | Websit e | Voahirana Claudia RANDRIAMAMO NJY, 2023 | Wom en | Malagas y | Lauréa Francia SAMOELAH, Antananarivo, Madagascar | https://www.madagasikara-voakajy.org/blog/national-lemur-day-3rd-edition-27th-october-2023 |
| DARWIN MONTHLY MEETING | Facebo ok | Saroy RASOLOSON | Wom en | Malagas y | Saroy RASOLOSON, Antananarivo Madagascar | https://www.facebook.com/LabelCBD Posted on March 15, 2024 |
| Field mission to evaluate aromatic and medicinal plants | Video in Facebo ok | Saroy RASOLOSON | Wom en | Malagas y | Saroy RASOLOSON, Antananarivo Madagascar | https://www.facebook.com/LabelCBD Posted on April 05, 2024 |

Annex 4: Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Supplementary materials for this report are found in this link: [28-009_Appendix_AR#3](#)

Checklist for submission

| | Check |
|---|-------|
| Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission? | Yes |
| Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line. | Yes |
| Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. | No |
| Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report. | Yes |
| If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)? | Yes |
| Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors | Yes |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully? | Yes |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. | |