

Bi-annual information note (newsletter) of the BLOCOM project: Semester I- 2023

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The Enhancement of Water Resources in the Marojejy Park by the Supply of Drinking Water for the Village of Mandena, at the Entrance of the Marojejy Park, World Heritage Site, Madagascar



Context

The Marojejy National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is part of the rainforests of the Atsinanana in the North-East Region of Madagascar. The park as a whole has an area of 55,885 ha and is under the management of Madagascar National Parks. This protected area is dominated by a humid climate with annual rainfall no less than 2,200mm between November and April. The park has an abundance of hydrographic networks feeding the rivers passing from one village to another in the SAVA region.

As part of the BIOCUM project, which aims to strengthen the protection and restoration of the Marojejy National Park, the population has expressed the need through Madagascar National Parks, a partner in the project, for a request for drinking water supply. The request is in line with the activities of component 2 of the project, which aims to improve the living conditions of the population. The project under the management of UNESCO through funding from KOICA has financed the construction of drinking water infrastructure for the village.

At the entrance to the Park, we pass through 02 villages: Manantenina and Mandena, which before the supply of drinking water, The population suffered from diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery and the proliferation of parasites by drinking dirty water. The village welcomes at least 3000 national and international visitors each year to discover the richness of the Park. This initiative will increase the number

of visitors because the lack of hygiene infrastructure discourages visitors from visiting the existing reception sites in the locality.

Result

A water catchment dam has been installed from the water source which is located in Antsahabe in the Park, 4.6 km from the village of Mandena. Water is conveyed to the village and distributed from a 50 m³ water reservoir. 24 standpipes are built to supply water to households. 460 households and one public primary school directly benefit from this drinking water infrastructure. The construction lasted 4 months and currently a village association has been created to manage the infrastructure. The association is structured as a water sub-committee formed by a group of households that manages and organizes the use of each standpipe. 02 local technicians have been trained to ensure the maintenance of the infrastructure.

The population benefiting from the water infrastructure plans to reforest the catchment area annually in order to protect the water sources for the sustainability of water in the village.

The Rural Municipality of Maroambihy and the Regional Directorate of Water are committed to monitoring the use and supporting the management committee for the sustainability of the infrastructure.

The drinking water supply in Mandena has had a double effect by meeting the essential need in the daily lives of the 3,285 people in the village and increasing the commitment of the beneficiary communities who are aware of the role of the forest providing water for life.

Testimony

“L’eau potable est
vitale pour notre
population ”

*Maire de la
Commune Rurale de
Maroambihy –
District de Sambava –
Region Sava -
Madagascar*



“ Depuis notre
accès à l’eau
potable, la
maladie comme
la diarrhée a bien
diminué
particulièrement
avec les enfants
en bas âge.”

*Madame Sabine –
Tresoriere du
Comite de l’Eau –
Village Mandena*



Green job for young people: Launch of computer training at the Vocational Training Center of Ranopiso/Madagascar



Regional Director of Technical and Vocational Training honored by the Deputy Mayor of the rural municipality of Ranopiso at the launch of the computer training.

Context

The BIOCUM project was implemented in order to strengthen the protection and restore the Andohahela National Park from its situation as a World Heritage Site (Atsinanana Rainforests). This Park is subject to anthropogenic pressures, which is why it has been classified as a World Heritage Site in danger since 2010.

The Ranopiso Vocational Training Center was established in the Rural Commune of Ranopiso in the district of Fort Dauphin in the Anosy Region of Madagascar. This is the region where the Andohahela National Park is located, which is a component of the Atsinanana Rainforests. This Vocational Training Center is the result of the BIOCUM Project "Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management for Integrated Community Development in National Parks of Madagascar" under the funding of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The objectives of the project are to conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property and to safeguard the Montagne des French protected area.

It was inaugurated in November 2022 under the leadership of the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training. A close collaboration with the Anosy Governorate has been set up in order to facilitate the realization of any activity in this Center.

Result

The Ranopiso Vocational Training Center was set up in November 2022 by the initiative of the Ministry of Technical and Vocational Training as part of this BIOCUM project. The Rural Municipality of Ranopiso has also taken their responsibility on raising awareness and mobilizing young people in order to register at the level of the Vocational Training Center.

Provision of technical platforms made by UNESCO so that the Vocational Training Centre can carry out training according to local promising trades.

Currently for the month of July 2023, the training on basic computer science has been launched by the Regional Directorate of Technical and Vocational Education Anosy under the presence of the local authority represented by the Deputy Mayor of the Rural Municipality of Ranopiso as well as the technical staff of the Regional Directorate.

This center particularly targets young people around the Andohahela National Park in order to strengthen their skills and so that they have sources of income to meet their needs. Currently, the direct beneficiaries (30 young people: 15 women and 15 men from nearby municipalities) can already enjoy their rights and benefits in terms of strengthening professional skills. The next wave will target municipalities a little far from the Park.

They are all motivated for the training and that it will contribute enormously to their management capacity, to the search for financial sources and job creation, according to their account.

This training was also launched thanks to the volunteering of the 3 young trainers from the Community itself and the Regional Directorate.

This first wave of training will last one month and includes the module on basic computer science so that young people can use and exploit computer equipment in their daily financial source search practice.

At the end of this training, these participants will be able to use computer equipment to find, create jobs and improve their source of income. They also raise awareness among their peers to register and participate in the training organized within the Ranopiso Vocational Training Center.

The Governorate rigorously monitors the operation of this Vocational Training Center, hence its close collaboration with the Regional Directorate on any sharing of information and the difficulties encountered in carrying out activities.



The volunteer trainer during the practical simulation with a participant.

Testimony

“Donner de compétence aux jeunes, c’est ouvrir la porte de leur autonomie de développement économique et sociale”

FINONANTSOA BON Esperance
Directeur Régional de la Formation Technique et professionnelle Anosy.



“Parrainer les gens de son jeune âge a la formation, C’est offrir une garantie pour la communauté entière un avenir prospère”

TSITAHIA Alexis
Adjoint au Maire de la Commune Rurale de Ranopiso



Talakifeno School ZAP Amnabatoabo

Context

The municipality of Ambatoabo is one of the intervention municipalities of this project or all the fokontany (neighborhood) whose accessibility in this municipality is very difficult. The road deteriorates every day, especially during the rainy season. The local populations are disconnected from all information because the local radio cannot reach this area. In addition, telephone communication was not present there, which makes communication with local very difficult because you always have to send someone to transmit messages (messengers). One of the reasons for this inaccessible situation is also the insecurity that is rampant in this area. During the weekly market day, trips are organized to ensure the safety of the economic operators who have come to supply the local populations.

Currently, as part of the implementation of the BIOCUM Project, in order to strengthen the protection of natural resources, collaboration with the Ministry of National Education has been made. Through this project, awareness-raising and training activities for young people have been carried out with the involvement of local populations. This has restored social cohesion and mutual understanding of the populations towards the foreigners who had come to carry out the work on the site. From the feasibility study to the completion of the work, the local young people were recruited by the company to build relationships with new people who are not their community. This was done in order to create a spirit of living together, also for job creation and especially the peer approach on the protection of natural resources.

Result

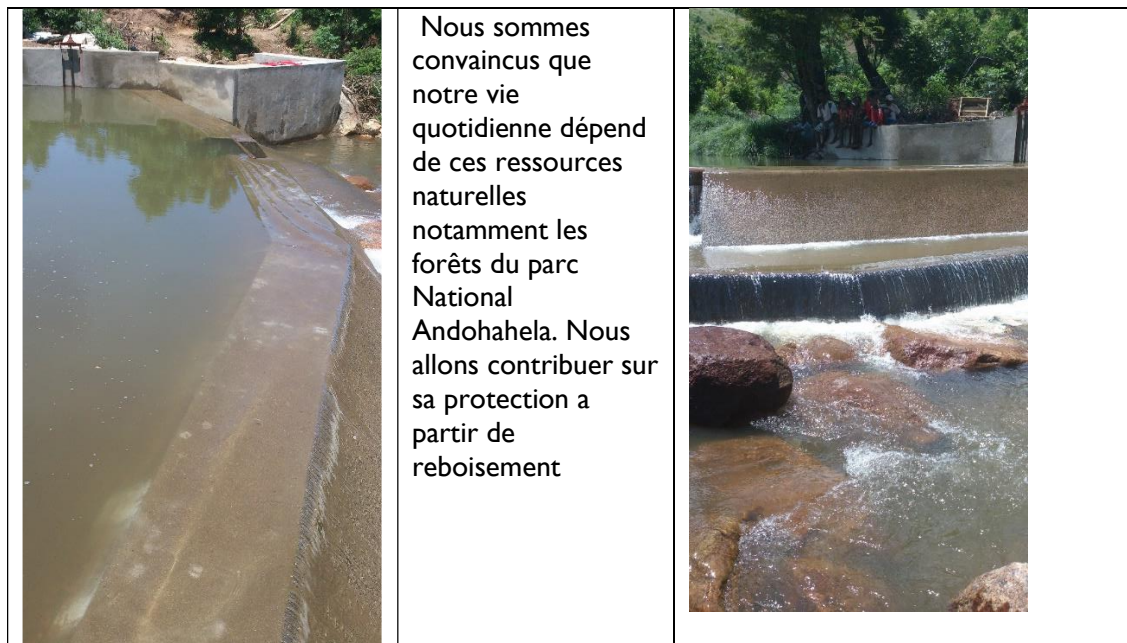
The collaboration with the Regional Directorate of National Education has resulted in the establishment of a Public Primary School in Talakifeno. It should be noted that this strategy of setting up a school was requested by the local community through Madagascar National Parks. The previous school infrastructure has been ravaged by the passage of the cyclone for about ten years. The solution provided by the local communities is the construction of local materials but which did not respect the environment because the parents had to bring wood to build it.

Hence the importance of this new construction of a Public Primary School in Talakifeno to give local communities a new vision of their behavior and habit on construction practice. A permanent school building with 03 classrooms and a latrine has been built. It is equipped with school furniture, namely 75 benches, 03 teachers' desks, 03 blackboards and 03 storage cabinets. More than 150 students will benefit from this school spread over 04 fokontany.

This school will benefit from training on Education for Sustainable Development so that students adopt a change in behavior in relation to the protection of natural resources.

Local communities through their traditional leaders have congratulated UNESCO's efforts for setting up such a beautiful school through the BIOCUM project. These local communities have planned an inauguration of this school for the month of September 2023 to mark its presence and also to thank all the various officials at all levels who are the source of this establishment.

Construction of agricultural dams



Context

The rural commune of Isaka Ivondro is located 35 km east of Taolagnaro, taking the RN 13 (12 km) and then the RIP 118 (23 km). The capital of the commune is accessible all year round despite the deterioration of the RIP 118 in the rainy season.

The main activities of the population are generally devoted to agriculture and livestock, but more than 95% are farmers. In general, the irrigated perimeter of Erara is classified in the traditional perimeter founded in 1950, moreover, we found from our field visit that: the beneficiaries are peasant producers, they want to be professional in their respective activities.

The existing network was built by the local community, which is composed of a traditional dam fed by the Ankazobe river allows the use of its waters for the irrigation of the following plains: Ankalivao, Ampadroaky, Enaliana, Andranobe, Andranombolamena, Beakondro, Ampamoandambo, Antsiranambe, Antaikoaky. There is a main canal serving any area, and from these flow the secondary canals that feed the tertiary canals.

In addition, the Erara irrigated perimeter uses another source of water from the tributaries of the Montaigne d'Erara.

Result

As the main activities of the population are generally focused on agriculture and livestock, these activities contribute to strengthening the resilience of the community through the implementation of income activities. Hence the establishment of this agricultural dam since the main activities of the population concern rice cultivation, cassava cultivation with a rice production of about 2,685 t per year. Moreover, Isaka Ivondro is one of the rice granaries of the Anosy Region in general and in the District of Taolagnaro in particular.

This dam was built in March 2023. More than 1700 people benefit from it. The communities have seen a marked improvement in this year's rice production as a result of this availability and abundance of water for their rice farming activities. 41 ha of rice cultivation are served by this dam, which has encouraged them to strengthen their agricultural activity to improve their source of income. Their production increased by 15% for the first harvest.

To make better use of the infrastructure put in place, communities will be supervised in the management of water use to ensure much more yield at their level.

Based on these results, the communities said they would contribute to the protection of natural resources, especially the Andohahela National Park. A local nursery will be set up at the level of this community to facilitate their participation in reforestation.

Procurement of CDMs at the primary and secondary school level



The BIOCUM/UNESCO project in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education has designed Didactic and Pedagogical Materials integrating ESD in 2022. This year, a training of trainers on the handover of these Didactic and Pedagogical Materials (MDP) for teachers living near Andohahela and Marojejy parks. Eleven (11) national and regional officials (SAVA and ANOSY) were trained on CDM procurement. A reference and organizational document for the handover of CDMs integrating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) accompanied by didactic materials with a variety of high-end visual aids (photo sheets,...) have been produced to help with "practices" on the environment that trainers and teacher-learners integrate into existing curricula. The CDMs developed by nature and discipline are tools for primary and secondary schools in grades T1-T4-T7 around the Andohahela and Marojejy National Parks to improve teaching methods and integrate environmental education and sustainable development in primary and secondary schools.

Andavakoera solar power plant Official inauguration of the photovoltaic solar power plant



Solar energy is a renewable energy. The Andavakoera photovoltaic solar power plant has the capacity to supply 100 households with electrical energy, with 28 solar panels producing 13.2 Kwh of electricity.

Local technicians received practical training during the construction of the distribution network so that they could carry out weekly maintenance of the plant.

In addition, the project manager received training during the functional test and until the end of the installation's warranty period.

The inauguration of this facility was made in February in the presence of national (Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development) and regional authorities.

From the installation of this infrastructure, the communities of Andavakoera have more to develop their own income-generating activities such as the production of ice cream for fishermen, the sale of yogurt and other activities.

The communities benefiting from this solar power plant help the park manager to strengthen and actively participate in the security and community monitoring activities around and in the park.