

BIOCOM

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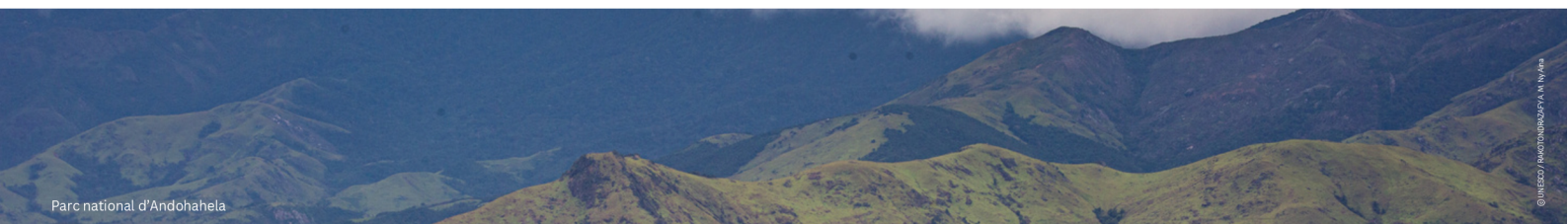


BI-ANNUAL INFORMATION NOTE

**THE TIME HAS COME
TO SUSTAIN THE
IMPACT OF OUR
INTERVENTIONS!**

»»» EDITO

The BIOCOM project aims to conserve and safeguard biodiversity in its intervention sites: Parc national d'Andohahela, Parc national de Marojejy and harmonious landscape des Montagne des Français. Initiated by UNESCO in Madagascar since 2020, BIOCOM is scheduled to end this year. In these last months, we are stepping on the accelerator to encourage conservation and safeguarding efforts and ensure their sustainability. Find out more about our latest achievements in this new issue of our biannual newsletter!



ARTICLE OF THE SEMESTER

INTRODUCTION OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PREPARING RESPONSIBLE AND COMMITTED YOUNG PEOPLE

With the BIOCOM project and through the Ministry of National Education (MEN), UNESCO actively contributes to the actions undertaken by the Government to integrate themes related to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into school curricula. ESD is now part of the Ministry of Education and Training curricula throughout Madagascar with the prospect of scaling up what has been achieved in the pilot sites at the national level.

The BIOCOM project (Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources for Integrated Community Development in Madagascar's National Parks), with the financial support of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), aims to conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the Marojejy and Andohahela National Parks and safeguard the protected harmonious landscape of the Montagne des Français.

To introduce ESD into the school curriculum, teaching and pedagogical materials have been developed in collaboration with the SRM. Nearly 240 kits each including 50 teaching boards, 1 keychain, 109 image kits, 2 audio files and 1 teacher's guide were distributed. The content of the programme highlights the importance of preserving the environment from an early age. They are empowered and committed to managing natural resources and reducing pressures in national parks.

Since the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, nearly 24,000 students in the preparatory classes (T1, T4 and T7) in the DREN of the Anosy and SAVA regions have benefited from this program during their life and earth sciences course.

To ensure the transfer of skills, capacity building of the teaching staff is required. It was done in cascade with the training of 8 regional trainers who in turn trained nearly 490 teachers spread over Andohahela and Marojejy.



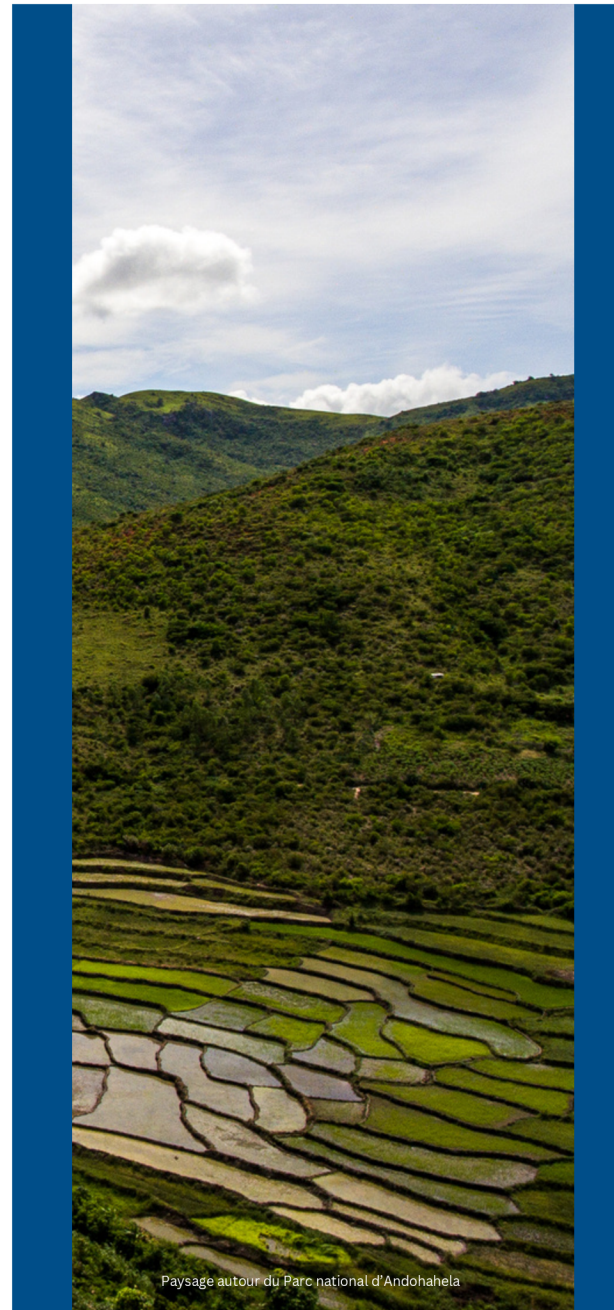
>>> ACTUS

**BIOCOM PROJECT REVIEW WORKSHOP:
CONTINUING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
AND SAFEGUARDING EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN
POSITIVE IMPACTS**

Last May, a review workshop of the BIOCUM project was held in Antananarivo to capitalize on the experiences in the field and the good practices learned. The workshop highlighted the importance of integrating local communities to sustain the impacts of interventions, to share benefits equitably with local communities and to adapt to local cultures to encourage beneficiaries to take ownership of the project.

The integration and empowerment of local communities should be further pushed in decision-making related to the conservation of local resources. This concerns the maintenance of the infrastructure made available to them, the equitable sharing of benefits with the communities or the management of the parks. The activities will be oriented towards exchanges between the beneficiaries in order to broaden their perspective and encourage the continuation of the initiatives already launched at the end of the project.

The project's implementing partners were on board: MNP, SAGE and Vahatra Association. Representatives of the ministries collaborating with UNESCO also added their expertise: MEN, METFP and MEDD.



Paysage autour du Parc national d'Andohahela



MONTAGNE DES FRANÇAIS: ALTERNATIVE INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES ARE BOOMING



Young masonry apprentices on practical training co



Her Excellency, Mrs Ji-hyun PARK, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, tastes homemade yoghurt produced by BIOCOM project beneficiaries in the company of SAGE technical partners.



Visit to the showroom displaying the handicrafts made by women beneficiaries of the MDF with Her Excellency Mrs Ji-hyun PARK, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.

From 18 to 22 June, the Korean Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea visited Montagne des French, one of the intervention sites of the BIOCOM project. This visit highlighted the achievements of the project in the last year, in particular the development of alternative income-generating activities.

Through BIOCOM, UNESCO has provided access to electricity to more than 100 households in the rural village of Andavakoera around Montagne des Français. A solar power plant with 28 panels producing 13.2 KWh has been installed, opening up the possibility of developing income-generating activities requiring electrical energy. In return for access to electricity, the beneficiaries contribute to build up a maintenance fund to ensure the take-up of the plant. The beneficiaries have started producing homemade yoghurt, ice cream bars and iced drinks. With a yoghurt pot resold at 1000 Ar, each beneficiary can sell at least 20 pots per day, i.e. a daily income of 20,000Ar.

Around the harmonious landscape of the Montagne des Français, young people are trained in different trades such as metal work, multi-purpose masonry or basketry. Certified by the METFP, eight young men were trained in metallurgy and 22 women in basketry. The latter exhibit their handicrafts made from the transformation of Satrana and Rabbat in a dedicated showroom. These are lady's bags, wallet, earrings and other souvenir items from the Diana region. After the training, it's time for practice! Suits and tools in hand, the young learners are launched into the field for the construction of a classroom at the Andavakoera Technical High School.

PARC NATIONAL DE MAROJEJY : A VILLAGE ASSOCIATION TO PRESERVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

The living conditions of local communities are improved with the installation of infrastructure facilitating access to drinking water around the Marojejy National Park. To ensure its sustainability, the beneficiaries themselves are mobilized through a village association.

The Parc national de Marojejy, one of the six components of the Atsinanana rainforests, is a serial UNESCO World Heritage property. Located in the North-East Region of Madagascar, this region is characterized by a humid climate with abundant annual rainfall between November and April. This abundance of water favours a large supply of the rivers and streams that cross the villages of the region.

The lack of infrastructure for access to drinking water affected the health of the local population, especially children with diarrhoeal diseases. Tourist visits were also affected by the lack of sources of drinking water. The living conditions of local communities are improved with the installation of infrastructure: access to drinking water for the population, possibility of organizing local tourist visits.



One of the 24 standpipes built to provide access to drinking water for the population of the village of Mandena.

As part of its conservation and restoration activities in the Parc national de Marojejy through the BIOCOM project, UNESCO has supported the establishment of drinking water supply systems for the benefit of 460 households residing around the park. This initiative has improved the living conditions of the population as well as the development of eco-tourism activity in the region.

24 standpipes have been built to ensure the supply of drinking water to local communities. To preserve the infrastructure, a village association composed of a group of beneficiary households has been created. It manages and organises the use of each standpipe, while local technicians are trained to maintain the infrastructure.

>>> SUCCESS STORY

**PARC NATIONAL D'ANDOHACHELA:
FARMERS EARN INCOME WHILE
PRESERVING FOREST RESOURCES**

The forests around Parc national d'Andohahela are under pressure from intensive resource exploitation by the local community. These farms are getting dangerously close to the protected area of the national park. Through the BIOCOM project, UNESCO provides support to support communities in developing alternative agricultural income-generating activities that preserve forest resources.

To meet their needs, local communities cultivated extensive cassava and greens and rice farming. However, these crops require a considerable amount of cultivable land. Communities then dangerously expand their cultivation around protected areas. To reduce these pressures and support economic activities, the BIOCOM project promotes the planting of fruit trees and cash crops. Through its implementing partner, Madagascar National Parks, the project has provided nearly 650 farmers with more than 3,000 vanilla plants, 3,500 clove plants and 4,000 coffee plants.

Located in the Anosy region, the Parc national d'Andohahela is one of the intervention sites of the BIOCOM project. The latter was made possible with the voluntary contribution of the Korean International Cooperation Agency. Its objective is the conservation of the Parc national d'Andohahela and Andohahela and the preservation of the harmonious mountain landscape of the French



KOTOVAO Gaspard, 62, married with 5 children, Andohahela National Park

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TESTIMONIALS

" For generations, to meet our needs, using the resources of the forest. We wanted to invest in the crops but with their high price, the plants were not accessible to us.

Thanks to the seedlings distributed by Madagascar National Parks, we will finally be able to get started and be less dependent on forest resources. With the plants received, we expect an estimated harvest of 50kg of coffee, 200kg of cloves and 30kg of green vanilla. This is enough to meet our needs. In addition, we already have the collectors in our municipality, ready for their resale." KOTOVAO Gaspard, beneficiary of the BIOCOM project - Isaka-Ivondro commune, Anosy region