



ARO Natora

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WCS Madagascar participated in the 56th edition of the ATBC.

Madagascar was the center of every attention, participants from over 50 countries gathered in the capital to attend the 56th edition of the ATBC – Association of Tropical Biology Conservation – conference. The edition was held from July 30 to August 3, 2019.

The ATBC conference was an interesting event that allowed students, researchers, associations, and NGOs in the field of environment to find solutions for the future of conservation of tropical biology. The 56th edition – under the theme “Tropical biology and sustainable development” - aimed to reconcile human and ecology in a perspective of sustainable conservation actions and successful management of natural resources.

Our team had the great opportunity to share their projects toward conservation in Madagascar, such as the Forum Lafa (<http://www.forum-lafa.org/>) – which gives the opportunity

to all the people in charge of the management of one or many terrestrial protected areas to share experience and to reinforce their capacity.

The ATBC was also an occasion for Madagascar Lemurs Portal (<https://www.lemursportal.org/>) to make a presentation on the Portal during the five-days meeting. We look forward to being part of the next ATBC edition!



Opening of the rotating octopus reserve in Soariake



Fishers gathered to celebrate the opening of the octopus reserve in Soariake on August 30 and 31, 2019. The result

of the 66-day closure was positive because the maximum weight reached is 7.5 kilos. And the fishers collected a total of 2.5 tons of octopus.

The closure concerned all villages in the Soariake Marine Protected Area except Salary I and Ankaramifoka for this season. Since 2008, WCS has been supporting communities in adopting management measures that will ensure the sustainability of marine resources in the MPA. Seasonal fishing closures are suggested among these measures because species regenerate, grow and reproduce during this short period... a measure that is well adopted by communities!

SMART, more agents are trained to use the tool.



WCS Madagascar – in collaboration with the Mikajy USAID project – offered MaMaBay's representatives training on the

use of Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART).

Twenty persons, including management representatives of Makira Natural Park with LMMAs, Masoala National Park, Nosy Mangabe, DREDD, and USAID Mikajy Project, attended the training on the use of this conservation tool (<https://smartconservationtools.org/>). The training aimed to promote the adaptive management of the MaMaBay land/seascape. This session was dedicated to the preparation of the conservation areas, the data importation, and cross-referencing of available patrol data on the MaMaBay landscape.

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