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Meet the new WCS Madagascar Country Director!

Prior to joining WCS Madagascar Program, Lovy Rasolofomanana has managed WaterAid Madagascar as a Country Director during eight years. He is a strong advocate for the importance of water and sanitation services in human development; hence, he has been actively involved in the 'Sanitation and Water for All' process, a global partnership committed to achieving universal access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation.

He is economist by training but he has mainly worked for social development



*Lovy Rasolofomanana, WCS
Madagascar Country Director*

–mostly in Mali and Madagascar– for the last 26 years. His interventions have covered various fields, including education, health, micro-credit, employment training, habitat, infrastructures, and land tenure.

Lovy Rasolofomanana's significant expertise in social development, water resources management, and livelihood projects will complement and align perfectly with WCS Madagascar's existing activities. We welcome him to the world of conservation!

Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme: reconciling food security for rural populations and wildlife conservation

Madagascar officially launched its Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Project on April 30, 2019, in Antananarivo. Madagascar is one of the 13 pilot countries of the SWM Programme, an African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) initiative, which is being funded by the European Union with co-funding from the French Global Environment Facility.

The SWM Madagascar Project is being implemented under the leadership of WCS, in collaboration with a consortium that includes the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). The Project is being implemented for five years in the Makira Natural Park and its surroundings. This exceptional site is one of the last remaining forest blocks of the island and the largest Category II protected area according to IUCN.

The Makira's model aims to reduce the consumption of vulnerable protected species such as lemurs, by improving access to alternative protein sources. The SWM Madagascar Project promotes consumption and improves access to species that are more resilient to hunting, such as exotic species by exploiting sustainable hunting frameworks. Therefore, the Project support the

development of poultry and fish farming to increase the quantities of domestic origin proteins. According to Morgane Cournarie, the SWM Site Coordinator for WCS Madagascar, "Makira is an ideal site to address unsustainable bushmeat exploitation issues through an integrated approach. Preliminary studies have shown that local populations prefer domestic meat, when available, and that they have the capacity and interest to carry out livestock activities if certain restrictions are removed."



Reinforcement of the Antongil Bay's LMMAs management

The Regional Forum of Locally Managed Fishing Areas (LMMA) of Antongil Bay was held on June 20, 21, and 22, 2019 in Mananara-Nord. The event brought together 70 participants, who are representatives of the 28 existing LMMAs and local authorities that are involved in marine resources management in the districts of Antalaha, Maroantsetra, and Mananara.

The forum was an opportunity to share good practices in marine areas and natural resources local management including community monitoring or the involvement of management associations in village socio-economic activities and their collaboration with local authorities.

Participants presented many recommendations to address the challenges they face in LMMA management,

including strengthening the structure of the fishermen's union to promote mutual efforts such as inter-village controls, for example, or sanctioning members of the Dina implementation committee who are not fair and who support preferential treatment.



A working group for the management of the uses of the Marine Corridor in Nosy Be is established.



WCS Madagascar has initiated researches with local stakeholders that have shown that the Marine Corridor, to the west and the northwest of Nosy Be, is rich in marine resources and provides socio-economic value for the country. WCS organized the Tandavandriana'i Nosy Be workshop on July 18 and 19, during which a

working group was set up to coordinate and manage the different forms of use of this area.

WCS Madagascar organized meetings to consult with users of marine resources in the area prior to this workshop in March 2019. The meetings helped determine the interests, threats, and pressures on the main sectors of the area, namely the fishing, tourism, maritime transport, and marine environment sectors. The area faces issues mainly the lack of fisheries monitoring and control activities, the lack of organization between tourist operators - organizers of excursions and whale watching -, illegal fishing on the great banks, the use of non-regular fishing gear in the Nosy Be coast, and the lack of scientific data.

The working group that was established during the Tandavandriana workshop will aim to ensure the sustainability of marine resources to address these. The existing unit will also ensure the sustainability of the ecological services that are provided by the marine ecosystem of the Nosy Be Marine Corridor and to promote the regeneration of damaged ecosystems and the recovery of overexploited fish stocks.

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