

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Species specific matters

Tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.)

REPORT OF MADAGASCAR

1. This document has been submitted by Madagascar.\*
2. Nine species of tortoises and freshwater turtles currently occur in Madagascar, of which five are endemic. Among the five species of endemic turtles:
  - a) One is aquatic – the Madagascar big-headed turtle, *Erymnochelys madagascariensis* (locally known as Rere);
  - b) The other four are terrestrial, including:
    - i) The radiated tortoise, *Astrochelys radiata* (locally known as Sokake) and the spider tortoise, *Pyxis arachnoides* (known as Kapila or Tsakafy), which are only found in the ecoregion of southern and southwestern Madagascar. They both live in sympatry in most of their ranges.
    - ii) The flat-backed spider tortoise, *Pyxis planicauda* (known as Kapidolo), is a small tortoise. It can only be found in western Madagascar, specifically in Menabe Region.
    - iii) The largest tortoise is the Madagascar angulated tortoise, *Astrochelys yniphora* (known as Angonoky) and is found in the northwest of the island. However, it has the smallest range of all these species. It is only found in Baie de Baly National Park in Soalala District, Boeny Region, and is considered to be one of the 25 most endangered turtle species in the world.
3. The five endemic turtle species are classified as protected species under national legislation. They are also classified as Critically Endangered – the last stage before extinction – according to the categories and criteria of the IUCN Red List. Their trade is officially banned. As regards the Madagascar big-headed turtle, *Erymnochelys madagascariensis*, Madagascar is proposing a quota from 2022.
4. At the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18), a new Decision on tortoises and freshwater turtles (Testudines spp.) 18.286 – 18.291 was adopted by the Conference of the Parties. Following Decision 18.286, Madagascar should:

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\* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

- a) review its implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles*; and
  - b) report to the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee on its implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP18), including in its report, information on any seizures, arrests, prosecutions and convictions secured as a result of activities implemented to address illegal trade in tortoises from Madagascar.
5. For the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee, Madagascar prepared a written report (SC73 Doc 24.2) to the Standing Committee and presented the report virtually during the meeting. At the end of the meeting, the Standing Committee made recommendations to Madagascar.
- a) The Committee encouraged Madagascar to:
    - i) scale up efforts to gather information and intelligence concerning the criminal networks operating within and from the country, to facilitate investigations that will go beyond frontline offenders such as the local poachers who are often at the lowest end of the illegal trade chain, targeting those individuals managing and organizing the illegal activities;
    - ii) actively pursue the continued implementation of the different aspects of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles*, including through the active implementation of its Regional strategy to combat trafficking in radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*) in the Atsimo-Andrefana region (*Stratégie régionale de lutte contre le trafic de tortues radiées « Astrochelys radiata » dans la région Atismo Andrefana*); and
    - iii) revise and update its existing endemic tortoise and freshwater turtle species identification materials and posters to inform the general public about these species and the importance of their conservation and protection, as well as to raise awareness amongst relevant national law enforcement agencies about the way these species are affected by wildlife crime and the importance of the fight against trafficking in these species;
  - b) The Committee encouraged Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations implementing programmes in Madagascar or planning to do so, to take into consideration in their work programmes and activities, as appropriate and applicable, recommendations a) i) to iii) above, the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.9 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles*, and the Regional strategy to combat trafficking in radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*) in the Atsimo-Andrefana region (*Stratégie régionale de lutte contre le trafic de tortues radiées « Astrochelys radiata » dans la région Atismo Andrefana*);
  - c) The Committee requested the Secretariat to continue to monitor illegal trade in tortoise and freshwater turtle species as it affects Madagascar, and the measures being implemented to address it, and to report back at its next meeting; and
  - d) The Committee invited Madagascar to provide an update on seizures, arrests and prosecutions, including on the outcomes of the prosecutions, and on its work with different partners, at its next meeting.
6. Madagascar draws the attention of the Standing Committee on the difficulties encountered in the fight against fraud and illegal harvests, highlighting the role of demand as the driver of illegal trade.
7. The Government of Madagascar has made the fight against illegal wildlife trade one of its priorities under the “Initiative for the Emergence of Madagascar” (IEM) and committed to “abolish all trade in natural resources, including rosewood, turtles and other endemic species of fauna and flora”. Many measures have been taken over the last few years, in particular to strengthen the fight against corruption and money laundering associated with illegal wildlife trade and establish a specific mechanism under criminal law to combat illegal trade of precious woods. Awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts aimed at judges and law enforcement authorities have also been made to improve judicial treatment of cases. Actions are being undertaken at their respective levels by the various ministries involved in the fight against this scourge (i.e., Environment, Justice, Finance/Customs, Gendarmerie, Public Health) and by civil society organizations such as the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (DWCT), the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), WWF, TRAFFIC, Alliance Voahary Gasy (AVG) and WCS.

8. Madagascar submits the present progress report to the members of the Standing Committee for their consideration to inform about the progress made.

## MEASURES TAKEN BY MADAGASCAR TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TRADE IN TURTLES

### A. Capacity building in the fight against illegal wildlife trade

In the field, in Androy Region (the area of distribution of the species *Astrochelys radiata*), a series of training courses took place in June 2021 with the cooperation of the Gendarmerie and the team of the *Direction Régionale de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable* (Regional Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development - DREDD) in Androy: the first training course was given by the company commander of Androy and was aimed at combating illegal trade in turtles; explaining the law that regulates the protection of turtles to the *Polisin'ala* (judicial police officers in the forestry sector) of Sihanakamba Mahavelo and the officers of the municipal police of Tragnovaho; and improving the operational and legal capacity of the officers of the Gendarmerie who worked in the advanced post of Marolinta. After this training with the National Gendarmerie, the team of the DREDD took over to provide training to the *Polisin'ala*.

In Boeny Region, the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust helped to implement the traditional convention known as "Dina", whose purpose is to find solutions to infringements on a local level before they are transferred to higher law enforcement bodies. However, the Dina was suspended in 2020 by the regional authorities of Boeny Region in order to review its content and its effectiveness at local level. Cooperation has also been established with local communities to conduct patrols in the habitat of *Astrochelys yniphora*, which is the core area of Baie de Baly National Park. Members of village patrols receive ongoing training on the use of smartphones and the collection of data during patrols with SMART software. Between 2019 and November 2021, they received training delivered by the company G4S on first aid, self-defence and how to conduct patrols. In August 2021, two festivals were organized in two villages of Baie de Baly as a sign of recognition of the local community for its cooperation in protecting *A. yniphora* from poaching. These two events were joyfully welcomed by about 2000 residents from 18 surrounding villages. During these festivities, awards were given to 40 patrol members according to order of merit, which reinforced their motivation to continue with the patrols.

In Atsimo Andrefana Region, the Ministry of Justice homologated the update of the traditional Dina convention in August 2020 at the request of the Governor of the Region. The implementation of the Dina in the fight against illegal trade of terrestrial and marine wildlife is included in this convention.

From March 2020 to March 2021, with the support of partners and the cooperation of Cops Without Borders/*Flics Sans Frontières*, training in police techniques for investigating illegal wildlife trade was given to judicial police officers of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), the National Police, the Gendarmerie and Customs officials well as a few investigators of the civil society organization Alliance Voahary Gasy (AVG). Eighty investigators attended to the Level 1 training course and 42 investigators attended the Level 2 course. Thanks to this training, investigators were able to conduct an inquiry that led to the arrest of a law enforcement official (a brigade commander of the Gendarmerie) implicated in a case of trafficking in Androy Region (see the seizure statistics for 09/04/2021), after a seizure of 193 individuals of *Astrochelys radiata* tortoises. These training courses for judicial police officers will resume in the framework of the current joint project with TRAFFIC and a mentoring system will also be implemented to ensure the success of investigations. Training modules will also be discussed and developed with the heads of the training institutions of the two ministries. Moreover, the Government of Madagascar, through the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and with the technical support of the partners and the financial support of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the United States Department of State, is considering the creation of a specialized judiciary police unit to strengthen the interministerial coordination mechanism in order to combat illegal wildlife trade more effectively. As regards the Ministry of Justice, as a member of the Anti-Corruption System in Madagascar, the *Pôle Anti-Corruption* (Anti-Corruption Division) plays a major role in the fight against corruption by prosecuting corruption and similar infringements, laundering of the proceeds of crime, financing of terrorism and complex and serious economic and financial violations. For example, in August 2021 a capacity building session for judges of the *Pôle Anti-Corruption* of Mahajanga, the *Pôle Anti-Corruption* of Antananarivo and the Court of Cassation of the Supreme Court of Madagascar was organized by the *Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature et des Greffes* (ENMG, National School of the Judiciary and Court Officers). The aim was to strengthen the campaign for Zero Tolerance of environmental crime promoted by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (DREDD) regarding environmental crime and illegal wildlife trade. The objective of the activity is to have an independent and effective specialized legal authority by promoting and strengthening the professional integrity of the officials of the judiciary.

In October 2021, the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development participated in the international symposium entitled *Justice administrative et environnementale: thématique justice climatique en Afrique* (Administrative and environmental justice: climatic justice in Africa). This is a multi-stakeholder dialogue aimed

at developing solutions for a socio-ecological transformation in which administrative judges have a key role to play in the framework of the fight against climate change. Discussions focused on the “key issues of environmental justice” and “international legal instruments”. International conventions and treaties are aimed at managing global, regional, national and local situations, hence the legitimacy of the interventions of UN bodies, donors and NGOs that sometimes raise questions about national sovereignty.

## **B. Prevention, detection and intervention efforts**

### **I. Measures taken by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)**

The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development reiterates its will to combat trafficking. An example is the zero tolerance policy in the fight against illegal wildlife trade and all its forms, including the systematic appeal of cases in which the Ministry did not win, the strengthening of field controls in protected areas and roads and the facilitation of all conventions signed that contribute to the fight against trafficking.

#### **➤ Creation of an anti-corruption unit in the MEDD**

In its new structure following Decree 2020–206 of 26 February 2020 establishing the powers of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and its general organization, the Ministry is coordinating the fight against corruption by establishing an Anti-Corruption Unit (*Unité de Lutte contre la Corruption*), which is a body attached to the Minister with the purpose of promoting good governance in the Ministry. It is also in charge of centralizing all the grievances received by the Ministry and ensuring the traceability and follow-up of all cases until they are effectively dealt with.

#### **➤ Use of social media to raise public awareness**

Since 2019, the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and its divisions have created social media accounts aimed at raising awareness and sharing information on cases of seizures and arrests in their jurisdiction.

#### **➤ Control measures in the regions (MEDD)**

The Ministry, through its regional directorates (22 regions) has strengthened controls at regional level against the illegal exploitation of forests.

As a reminder, Ordinance No. 60–128 sets the procedures applicable to the prosecution of infringements of forest, hunting, fishing and environmental protection legislation. Under this text, officials empowered to enforce violations of forest legislation seize and sequester all the products of the infringements.

Act No. 2005–018 on international trade in species of wild fauna and flora implements CITES in Madagascar and sets the general rules applicable to the enforcement of violations regarding the use of CITES-listed species.

Act No. 2015–005 recasting the Protected Area Management Code (*Code de Gestion des Aires Protégées*) entered into force on 26 February 2015. This act regulates everything related to protected areas such as the various categories and components and the zoning of protected areas. The distinguishing feature of this new act is the total elimination of the settlement fine known as *transaction*, which the former act provided for. This act, known as COAP, establishes all categories of infringements.

(cf. the results of the implementation of these acts on Table 1 below)

## **II. Species conservation and management efforts**

### **➤ Reintroduction into the wild (area of distribution of *Astrochelys radiata*)**

- Release site of Malaintsatroke, Androy Region

On 27 July 2021, 1000 individuals of *Astrochelys radiata* from the quarantine centre of the TSA's TCC in Ala Mahavelo (Androy Region) were released into the wild. The following methodology was used:

- o the tortoises were soaked upon arrival in Malaintsatroke and fresh water was provided in a plastic basin during the first week from the release.

- two documents were drafted (and validated by the Regional Directorate of Androy Region), including a contract for the management committee and a management plan for the site of Sihanakamba Mahavelo; they were signed by the official representatives, the prefect of Androy Region, the DREDD of Androy Region, the president of the VOI (local management group) and the presidents of the *Fokontany*, administrative subdivisions of the commune.
- Two *Fokontany* (Antsakoamidega and Tambala Karimbola) of the commune of Marolinta et three other *Fokontany* (Benato, Saromilitse and Angnirimihamba) of the commune of Tranovaho are the communities directly involved in the management of the Malaintsaroke release site. On paper, these communities were grouped together into the community management unit known as “Sihanakamba Mahavelo” and the management contract signed by the DREDD of Androy Region was renovated on 27 July for ten years.

To respect the wish of the traditional leaders who firmly hold on to their beliefs linked to taboo, two zebus were slaughtered on 27 July during the traditional ceremony of the event. The main purpose of the ceremony was to strengthen the local implementation of the “lilindraza” Dina or social convention also defined in the regional law known as “Lilintane I Androy”. The newly released tortoises in Malaintsaroke and the natural forest where the tortoises were released are protected following the traditional approach. Native and released tortoises are treated in the same way under social rules against poaching and trafficking.

To support local communities who fight against the impact of climate change around Malaintsaroke, the five communities were given twenty 50-kg rice bags in the presence of the representatives of Androy Region, the prefect and the DREDD of the region, the heads of the districts of Beloha and Tsihombe and representatives of the two communes of Marolinta and Tranovaho.

The communities around Malaintsaroke were given two bicycles manufactured in Europe enabling the movements of patrol members.

In order to provide permanent support to the field initiative, construction of a two-room building began on 14 August to provide an office for the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) as well as a meeting room for the management committee of Sihanakamba Mahavelo.

- Marofijery site, Atsimo Andrefana Region

Moreover, in Atsimo Andrefana Region, 500 radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*) are being prepared for reintroduction in a safe natural environment to close the circle of seized animals that will not live indefinitely in the quarantine centre. In 2017-2018 and 2019, the team of the DREDD conducted prospecting missions to search for a potential release site on the coast of Atsimo Andrefana (a map shows the appropriate sites), held community meetings, assessed the density of native animals and asked for the agreement of the local communities. After the final assessment, the site of Marofijery was identified as being safe and fulfilling the reintroduction criteria.

#### ➤ Identification and awareness-raising materials

In the framework of the celebration of the anniversary of its existence, the TSA launched a photo contest to show the beauty of Malagasy radiated tortoises. The announcement of the winner of the contest was followed by an awareness-raising campaign with the cooperation of Fondation pour les Aires Protégées et la Biodiversité de Madagascar, Madagascar National Parks, the National Tourism Office of Madagascar, the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and other partners at the ORTANA Antaninarenina Garden in Antananarivo.

The purpose of these initiatives was to:

- Help raise public awareness of the natural and exceptional beauty of radiated tortoises among the biodiversity of Madagascar.
- Promote green tourism that respects the cultural richness in harmony with nature.
- Acquire a well-founded understanding of the importance of the integrity of biodiversity in human development.
- Lead to responsible behaviour as a builder of common good.

➤ **International cooperation and cooperation with CITES Parties**

When endemic turtles of Madagascar are seized in countries that are Parties to CITES, there is cooperation for the repatriation of the animals. This has happened in Malaysia, the Comoros and France.

At present, after the seizure of turtles in Mozambique and Tanzania, discussions are under way to repatriate the animals.

**III. Report on the compilation of data on seizures, arrests and prosecutions (2019-2021, source: Regional Directorates for Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, MEDD)**

The Forest Control Service of the General Directorate for Environmental Governance (*Direction Générale de la Gouvernance Environnementale*) in Antananarivo compiles data every year on forest crimes committed in the jurisdictions of the Regional Directorates. The compilation of the data for the previous year is available in June of the following year. The Department of Legal Affairs and Litigation (*Direction des Affaires Juridiques et du Contentieux*) is currently developing a standard database for each General Directorate to record the data in.

For this report, the General Secretariat of the Ministry made a specific request to collect data from the Regional Directorates of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development.

**Table I: Summary of data on seizures, arrests and prosecutions**

Date of seizure	Species	Description of specimens	Quantity	Unit	Location of the incident	Agency that detected the incident	Reason for seizure	Citizenship of offender (optional)	Penalty (report if known)	Use of confiscated specimens	Additional information
21/01/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	26 tortoises and smoked meat	26	number	Beahitse, Atsimo Andrefana Region	Brigade of the Gendarmerie, Ejeda		Malagasy	One year imprisonment		1 person convicted
28/01/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	Live	8	number	Bemasoandro Antanifotsy (Atsimo Andrefana Region)		Illegal transport			Sequestered by the authorities before being transferred to the turtle conservation center	
05/03/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	Live	24	number	Ankazomanga, Antananarivo		Illegal possession	Chinese		Sequestered by the authorities before being transferred to the turtle conservation center	
23/03/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	Live hatchlings	82	number	Majunga					Sequestered by the authorities before being transferred to the turtle conservation center	
		Live adults	2	number							



09/04/2019	<i>Astrochelys yniphora</i>	Live adults	12	number	Amborovy, Mahajanga	Forestry officials	Sale, possession and acquisition of protected animals	European	5 years imprisonment: 13,000,000 MGA		
11/04/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live	45	number	Mahajanga	Forestry officials				Sequestered by the authorities before being transferred to the turtle conservation center	
	<i>Kynixis zombesis domerguei</i>	live	4	number							
	<i>Pyxis planicauda</i>	live	6	number							
	<i>Pyxis arachnoides arachnoides</i>	live	6	number							
	<i>Pyxis arachnoides brygooi</i>	live	3	number							
27/04/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live	5	number						Sequestered by the authorities before being transferred to the turtle conservation center	The tortoises are handed over by the American ambassador center
13/05/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live	11	number							
15/06/2019	Turtles	live	6	number	Ihorombe Region		Illegal harvest and possession of turtles				Submitted to the Court of First Instance of Ihoay: 2 years suspended sentence
11/07/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live		number	Mahajanga		Illegal trafficking of protected animals	Malagasy	Suspect placed under a detention order		

21/07/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live	84	number	Majunga						
02/09/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live	120	number	Itampolo	Brigade of the Gendarmerie, Itampolo		Malagasy	Suspects placed under a detention order		
03/09/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live juveniles	22	number	Fianarantsoa	Judicial police officers				Sequestered by the authorities before being transferred to the turtle conservation center	
06/09/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live	2	number	Antananarivo	Judicial police officers	Illegal possession			Sequestered by the authorities before being transferred to the turtle conservation center	
06/10/2019	<i>Pyxis arachnoides arachnoides</i>	live	10	number	Antananarivo	Gendarmerie					
22/10/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	Live	3	number	Androka, Tulear	Forestry officials					Unknown offender
07/11/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	Live	8	number	Itampolo	Brigade of the Gendarmerie ITAMPOLO		Malagasy	Suspect placed under a detention order		
27/11/2019	Turtles	Live hatchlings	41	number	Tolagnaro Airport					Transferred to Tsihombe turtle conservation center	
11/12/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live	190	number	Jafaro Ambovombe	Gendarmerie, Senior Forestry Officer and TSA	Harvest and illegal transport	Malagasy			Information in the newspaper of 13 December 2019
30/12/2019	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>		18		Fotadrevo, Atsimo Andrefana	Brigade of the Gendarmerie of Fotadrevo and forestry officials			Waiting to be brought before a judicial authority		

17/01/2020	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	adults	18	number	Fokontany Beborodoke, CR Beloha, Beloha District, Androy Region	Forestry officials	Hunting and consuming radiated tortoises	Malagasy	Imprisonment and fine		Fine
02/2020	<i>Pyxis arachnoïdes</i>	live	10	number	Antananarivo	Forestry officials	Illegal possession and sale of protected animals (10 <i>Pyxis arachnoïdes</i> )				
17/02/2020	tortues	juveniles	14	number		Forestry officials	Possession and illegal transport	Malagasy			
24/02/2020	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	2 live adults 7 meat, destroyed	2	number	Fokontany Abolaza, CR Marolinta, Beloha District	Forestry officials	Hunting and consumption of radiated tortoises	Malagasy	Imprisonment and fine		
25/02/2020	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	adults live	6	number	Fokontany Andagara, CR Beloha, Beloha District	Forestry officials	Hunting and consumption of radiated tortoises	Malagasy	Imprisonment and fine		
07/03/2020	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live specimens	2	number	Urban commune of Antananarivo	Forestry officials	Illegal possession and trade	Malagasy	Fine: 10,000,000 MGA; damages: 1,000,000 MGA	Temporarily placed at the TSA of Ambohidratrimo under document No. 103/5 of 09/03/2020	
09/03/2020	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i> (1 male and 1 female)	adults	2	number		Criminal Brigade of Anosy	Illegal trade	Malagasy			
21/05/2020	<i>Astrochelys yniphora</i>	Adults	8	number	Ankadikely Ilafy Antananarivo	Forestry officials	Illegal possession for the purpose of illegal trade	Malagasy		Placed at the TSA Ambohidratrimo under document No. 145 of 22/05/2020	
	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	adults	62	number							
	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	juveniles	70	number							

08/06/2020	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i> and <i>Pyxis planicauda</i>		27	number	Mahajanga	Gendarmerie and forestry officials	Illegal possession of protected animals	European		1 month imprisonment 1 month suspended prison sentence Damages: 5,000,000 MGA	
23/06/2020	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	Live	144	number	Fokontany Beheloka, Beheloka commune and Toliara II district	Forestry officials	Illegal possession, transport and sale	Malagasy	Suspended sentence	The animals were released in Tsimanapesotsa Protected Area	
08/10/2020	Marine turtle	dead	1	number	Mahambo, Analanjirofo	Forestry officials	Possession, sale, acquisition for commercial purposes and sale of marine turtle		Placed under a detention order		
29/10/2020	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>		2	number	Ambohimangakely Antananarivo	Forestry officials	Illegal possession for the purpose of illegal trade	Malagasy		Placed at the TSA Ambohidratrimo under document No. 342 of 6 November 2020	
	Radiated tortoises		42	number	Ihosal	Forestry officials	Illegal transport	Malagasy		Kept in the premises of the DREDD in Ihorombe	
2020	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	adults	11	number	Fokontany Bemena CR Behabobo Distri Beloha	Forestry officials	Hunting and consumption of radiated tortoises	Malagasy	Imprisonment and fine		
2021	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live	272	number	Tulear	Police Intervention Force					Unknown offender
16/03/2021	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	live	8	number	Mahajanga	Forestry officials	Illegal possession of protected animals		Case being processed		Referred to the Court of First Instance and handed over to the

											Anti-Corruption Division of Mahajanga (case being processed)
09/04/2021	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>		193	number	Barabay, CR Tranovaho, Beloha District	Gendarmerie and forestry officials	Hunting and poaching of radiated tortoises	Malagasy	Imprisonment and fine		
11/06/2021	Spider tortoises	live			Antananarivo	Forestry officials	Illegal possession and sale of protected animals (8 spider tortoises)		P1-P2-P4 declared guilty 3 months suspended prison sentence Damages: 200,000 MGA		
17/11/2021	<i>Astrochelys radiata</i>	26 live individuals 2 dead	28	number	Ampanihy	Forestry officials	Local consumption	Malagasy	Detention order	Transferred to the turtle conservation centre	

### III. Perspectives

Madagascar faces numerous threats to its wild flora and fauna. There are projects under way to help the fight against trafficking of natural resources whose implementation is supported by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development:

- GEF-7 Project

Jointly with UNEP, a GEF-7 project aimed at combating poaching / illegal trade of radiated tortoises is being set up. Project title: Sustainable Management of Conservation Areas and Improved Livelihoods to Combat Wildlife Trafficking in Madagascar.

Project objective: Conservation of biodiversity in Madagascar through strengthened management of the new protected areas (categories V and VI), with active engagement by communities, and enforcement to reduce the rate of illegal wildlife trade and poaching. Regions concerned: Androy, Anosy and Atsimo Antsinanana.

The project is being set up at the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development.

- Project in cooperation with the NGO TRAFFIC

The NGO TRAFFIC is implementing three projects focused on countering illegal wildlife trade. Two projects are reported here (i.e., LEMUR-CWC and SIDA-VfD) and the third one is in cooperation with USAID.

<b>Project 1</b>	Law Enforcement in Madagascar: a United Response to Combating Wildlife Crime <sup>1</sup> (LEMUR CWC)
<b>Donor</b>	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the United States Department of State
<b>Duration</b>	October 2020 – September 2022 (2 years)

Objectives:

1. Collect data on illegal wildlife trade on a national level through the analysis of closed cases and the monitoring of judicial proceedings in progress
2. Contribute to building the capacity of judicial police officers and raising awareness of judges
3. Promote the strengthening of legislation and interministerial coordination for combating illegal wildlife trade
4. Contribute to the reinforcement of cross-border cooperation with countries of transit and destination
5. Establish a mechanism to strengthen the prevention, detection and prosecution of poaching, jointly with the communities of the Baie de Baly National Park.

<b>Project 2</b>	Voices for Diversity (VfD)
<b>Duration</b>	January 2020 – December 2022
<b>Donor</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA)

Objective: The project is aimed at building the capacity of Malagasy authorities and civil society organizations to actively fight illegal wildlife trade through strengthened cooperation and joint law enforcement efforts, thereby contributing to a better implementation of CITES.

- Project in cooperation with USAID

A project aimed at countering corruption and wildlife trafficking in Madagascar with a duration of 3 years and USAID as a financial partner has just been launched.

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<sup>1</sup> In French: *Application de la loi à Madagascar: une réponse unifiée contre le trafic d'espèces sauvages*

Institutional partners: - *Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable* (Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development) - *Ministère de la Justice* (Ministry of Justice) - *Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances* (Ministry of the Economy and Finance) - *Direction Générale des Douanes* (General Directorate of Customs) - *Ministère de la Sécurité Publique* (Ministry of Public Safety) - *Secrétariat Chargé de la Gendarmerie* (Secretariat in charge of the Gendarmerie) – the institutions of the Anti-Corruption System: CSI, BIANCO, SAMIFIN and *Pôle Anti-Corruption* (PAC). Implementation partners: WWF, TRAFFIC International, Transparency International Initiative Madagascar and Alliance Voahary Gasy (AVG).

Aim: Reduce corruption in the natural resources sector to improve conservation			
Objectives	Reduce the opportunities for corruption in the natural resource sector to improve socioeconomic conditions and wildlife and forest conservation	Strengthen regional and national law enforcement mechanisms	Support coordination between the government, civil society, anti-corruption agencies and the players in the fight against wildlife trafficking
Approaches	Strategic approach 1: Strengthen national and local anti-corruption efforts	Strategic approach 2: Institutionalize capacity-building efforts in the judiciary and law enforcement	Strategic approach 4: Improve coordination of the commitments of the government, civil society and the efforts of the other players in combating wildlife trafficking
Key actions	<p>1.1. <i>Conduct research on the role of corruption in the facilitation of wildlife crime and illegal timber exploitation in Madagascar to understand the local context and make recommendations on the actions most likely to lead to significant and lasting change.</i></p> <p>1.2. <i>Develop and implement innovative approaches and tools to address context-specific corruption problems.</i></p> <p>1.3. <i>Cooperate with the institutions of the anti-corruption system through technical assistance and training, and supporting the development of independent platforms to combat wildlife and timber crime and corruption.</i></p>	<p>2.1. <i>Improve the effectiveness of the judiciary to prosecute, try and sentence traffickers. Implement activities to support the judiciary, including the tracking of investigations and the development of tools to support prosecutions, such as quick reference guides for prosecutors and judges.</i></p> <p>2.2. <i>Strengthen law enforcement capacity at the local, national and regional level to face the threats posed by wildlife and timber trafficking.</i></p>	<p>4.1. Undertake efforts to collect and disseminate data on the trafficking of target species, including seizures, the status of ongoing cases, convictions, fines and sentences.</p> <p>4.2. Support the organization of 2 national conferences on the fight against trafficking of natural resources. Conferences should focus on strengthening partnerships and coordination and developing support tools for coordinating the fight against trafficking of species and the sustainability of these efforts.</p> <p>4.3. Support the coordination and support of advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns to increase knowledge about trafficking and its impacts on the economy, tourism, governance and the biodiversity of Madagascar.</p> <p>4.4. Support the mobilization of other players in the fight against trafficking of natural resources</p>
Strategic approach		Strategic approach 3: Strengthen cooperation and coordination between law enforcement bodies at national and regional level	

		<p><i>3.1. Support cooperation and coordination in law enforcement between the agencies concerned and with regional and international partners and platforms</i></p> <p><i>3.2. Deliver training on combating transnational organized crime (CTOC).</i></p> <p><i>3.3. Build the capacity of customs officials by developing interagency cooperation in law enforcement.</i></p>	
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USAID Project



# COUNTERING CORRUPTION & WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

**The USAID “Countering Corruption and Wildlife Trafficking activity”** aims to reduce wildlife trafficking by preventing corruption and improving governance of natural resources.

This three-year, USAID funded activity is led by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and brings together a consortium of organizations including WWF Madagascar, TRAFFIC International, Transparency International Initiative Madagascar and Alliance Voahary Gasy (AVG). This consortium will work closely with local and national Government of Madagascar officials and anti-corruption organizations to strengthen governance in order to preserve Madagascar’s unique heritage and natural resources for future generations.

## TRAFFICKING IN MADAGASCAR

Madagascar’s unique wildlife species are highly valued by foreign markets wildlife trade. For over a decade, Madagascar has experienced unprecedented levels of illegal wildlife trade. The most highly trafficked species include precious hardwoods, tortoises, and marine species such as sharks and sea cucumbers.

Recent investigations uncovered the presence of a wildlife crime network that expands from Madagascar to Asia, Europe, and the US. Under the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act 2020 report, the United States has designated Madagascar as a “Focus Country” and “Country of Concern”, underscoring the high levels of wildlife trafficking and associated corruption in the the country.

### KEY FIGURES

**Corruption Perception Index (CPI) Score for Madagascar, 2020:**

**25/100**

which ranks Madagascar

**149 out of 180 countries.**

*(Transparency International CPI Index 2020 in Madagascar)*



More than

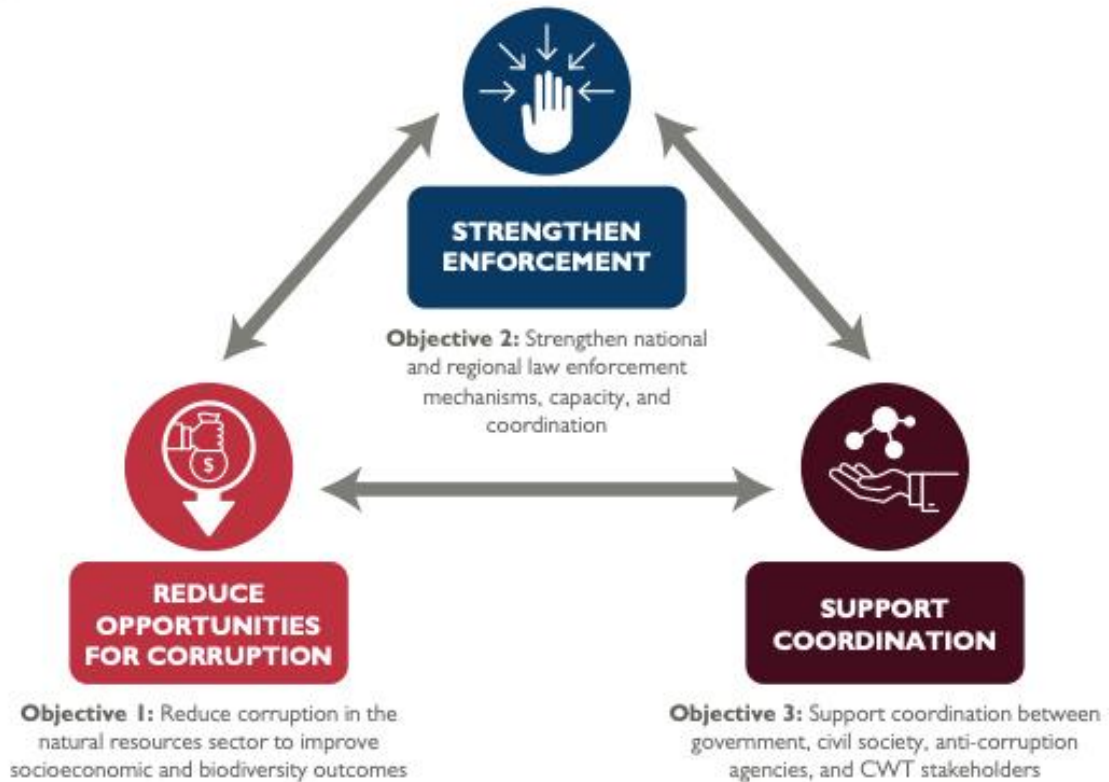
**21,000**

endemic species of tortoises were seized during trafficking incidents within Madagascar between 2018 - 2021 (TRAFFIC)

PHOTO: TONY MAKOTO/WWF MADAGASCAR

## OUR STRATEGY

Poor governance leads to the destruction of forests, a loss of biodiversity, and an increase in corruption and poverty. In order to reduce corruption and combat the illegal trafficking of species, this activity will take a holistic approach to address these complex issues. This activity will work with law enforcement and customs to strengthen border controls and enhance surveillance through the use of specialized investigation techniques and targeted training and will improve the effectiveness of the justice system by building institutional capacity to efficiently prosecute and sentence traffickers. Research will be conducted on the role of corruption in the facilitation of illegal trafficking in Madagascar and will inform the development of innovative approaches and tools to help strengthen local and national anti-corruption efforts. We are confident that these actions, combined with meaningful coordination and an increase in transparency between government, civil society, anti-corruption agencies, and non-governmental organizations, will lead to a reduction in corruption and the trafficking of Madagascar's precious species.



## MAJOR PARTNERS



**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

**TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE MADAGASCAR**



[WWW.USAID.GOV/MADAGASCAR](http://WWW.USAID.GOV/MADAGASCAR)

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