



COMMUNITY-BASED PILOT REFORESTATION PROJECT FOR ENERGY PRODUCTION IN NORTHWEST MADAGASCAR

Ref.
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Expert(s)	Country	Volume (md)	Amount* (€)	Beneficiary	Funding	Start date	End date	Partner(s)	Reference
Jérôme Maurice	Madagascar	11	18,460 <i>*For the referred expert, within ONFI</i>	Fokontany of Ambalatsingy	Nestlé France	Jan. 2011	Dec. 2011	Verama, AAP	julien.demenois@onf.fr +33 698 805 578

Detailed description of the project	Services provided
<p>The reforestation project area is located in northwestern Madagascar, 150 km north of Mahajanga, in the region of Sofia. The project takes place in the <i>fokontany</i> of Ambalatsingy (N.B.: a 'fokontany' is the smallest administrative unit in Madagascar), which includes seven hamlets scattered around the main village of the same name and which is linked to the rural commune of Antonibe. The total population of the village is about 750 people, mostly under the age of 20. The area has undergone various micro-reforestation projects since 2005, for demonstration purposes.</p> <p>The local economy is essentially dependent on traditional rice crops with very low yields (around 650 kg/ha, compared to the world average yield of around 3.9 tons/ha). Local natural resources are over-exploited for localized commercial purposes or auto-consumption (non-ligneous forest products, wood, etc.). It is a subsistence economy with little prospect of development without the support of external technical and financial sources. Sources of wood-energy are increasingly scarce, while supply distances are on the increase.</p> <p>The intervention's objective was to coordinate the implementation of a pilot project for the small-scale, community-based reforestation of 10,000 trees (around 4 ha). The resulting plantations will help replenish a renewable source of energy i.e. wood, which over time will provide the population with wood-energy (woodfuel and charcoal) as well as timber for general services (poles, posts, stakes, etc.)</p> <p>The local communities of Ambalatsingy are the project's main beneficiary. Benefits are the revenues generated by the field operations, as well as the future sustainable harvest of wood and non-ligneous forest products.</p>	<p>The main expert was in charge of the technical design of the project (searching for partners, setting up of local management structures), technical and administrative monitoring, and the financial reporting.</p> <p>The mission launch carried out by the technical partner enabled the project's management structure to be set up locally, via the posting of an extension agent in charge of the dissemination of good nursery practices (seedlings production), and good field practices (manual soil preparation and plantation). Several consultations were held with the population beforehand to obtain their consent and to identify land suitable for reforestation. A <i>joro'ntany</i> was organised to seek their ancestors' blessing. Agricultural inputs were collected (manure, peat, sand, red earth, rice bran etc.) and the nursery was built.</p> <p>A monitoring mission was carried out by the leading expert at the launch of the tree-planting campaign. Finally, 7 000 <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i> and <i>Acacia leptocarpa</i> seedlings were planted for energetic purposes (good carbonization yields, good coppicing capacity) and 3 000 <i>Acacia mangium</i> were planted for other purposes (straight timber).</p> <p>This mission was part of the consultation process launched at the beginning of the project with the intention of gathering the opinions and recommendations of the local operators (populations). In addition, the key-elements of a socio-economic and environmental evaluation framework were prepared.</p> <p>In the end, the project enabled the transfer of technical skills to promote community-based reforestation activities. The targeted community remains isolated however, and it is necessary to attract new sources of financing (public and private) to pursue the reforestation efforts and implement new projects.</p>