

**Project number:** 11

**Project applicant:** Association pour le Sauvegarde de l'Environnement (ASE)

**Project Name:** Initiation of an environmental education and community training centre for sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in Ankilibe, Madagascar

**Funds provisionally allocated:** €19,800

### Summary

The southwestern region of Madagascar in the periphery of the Tulear urban area has a wide diversity of habitats and is one of the richest areas of floral diversity in the world. A local non-for-profit NGO named the ASE (Association pour le Sauvegarde de l'Environnement) has plans to develop a community-training and environmental education centre just south of the Provincial Capital of Tulear near to the rural village of Ankilibe. These plans have been developed jointly with the Tulear Association of Scouts (Tily Eto Madagascar), the Antsoaky Arboretum, and technical staff working with Parcs Nationaux Madagascar (ANGAP) and WWF. The centre will serve as the first environmental education facility in the region serving both urban and rural school groups from in and around Tulear, the local population, and visiting tour groups. More importantly, the centre will serve as a training facility that seeks to introduce more sustainable livelihoods in the local Vezo/Tanalanga fishing communities in the southern Tulear whom have drastically over-harvested and severely degraded the marine resources and terrestrial habitats upon which their present livelihoods depend.

The overall objective of the programme is that "*present land and marine degradation tendencies are reversed and coastal habitats and ecosystems are restored through sustainable natural resource management and livelihoods of local communities in the southern Tulear coastal area*". Support from EAZA will be used to fund three of the six coherent and integrated components of the programs. They are:

- A regional training centre is established for educational programs on environmental management, alternative energy technologies, cultural history, alternative livelihoods development, and ecotourism opportunities (a centre that is open to local communities, school groups, and regional NGOs);
- Mangrove restoration techniques that contribute to the restoration of seafood stocks are developed and are being actively implemented in the communities of Ankilibe and Sarodrano;
- A programme for terrestrial habitat restoration and fuel wood plantations is initiated in the communities of Ankilibe and Saordrano.

Programme funding from other sources will be used for the following three components:

- Techniques are developed for alternative pirogue construction and more efficient fishing techniques;
- Community marine conservation areas are established (no-go zones) to improve fish stocks as well as to diminish the pressure on the marine habitats and provide opportunities for marine ecotourism development; and
- The tremendous ecotourism potential of the region is developed for the benefit of the local communities of Ankilibe and Sarodrano.

The principal strategy, and challenge, for the success of the project will be to engage regional actors and programs in making investments in this training program. Given the proximity to Tulear, the justification of the project, and the existence of a Steering Committee and on-the-ground personnel, this strategy can work. In addition, formal collaborative agreements will be established with the Antsoaky Arboretum and PNM-ANGAP in the development of this programme in order to further ensure ongoing development and sustainability.