

# **MAHAFATOKY PROJECT**

**Project Name :** « Mahafatoky – Protection and Adaptation against the implications of climate change on the East coast of Madagascar »

**Activity sector :** Disaster Risk Reduction/Adaptation to climate change/Food security

**Start date :** January 2015

**End :** March 2018

**Location :** SAVA Region ; District of Antalaha (12 Communes) and District of Sambava (02 Communes) along the northeast coast of the country

**Budget :** 1,673,419 EUR

**Donor :** BMZ

**Local partners :** Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Meteorology at the regional and district levels

**Beneficiary numbers :** 250,000 persons (50,000 households) dependent on subsistence farming and some on fishing, living in rural communities

## **Contexte**

Madagascar has been among the most vulnerable country in the world to climate change, due to factors including its high exposure to climate hazards, its dependence on agriculture and natural resources, and the limited adaptive capacity of public institutions and infrastructure. Climate change models predict a continued and significant increase in cyclone intensity, with the area of impact moving northwards on the island.

In northeast Madagascar, rising sea levels, the deforestation of mangroves, and cyclones are accelerating coastal erosion. There is an increased risk of storm surges. Heavier winds and coastal deforestation will result in greater damage to property and public infrastructure. And more intense rainfall increases the risk of flash flooding—made worse by slash-and-burn agriculture practices.

Overall, the effects of climate change in the project districts, together with the effects of unsustainable use of natural resources, have already led to loss of homes, productive assets, crops, and seeds during hazard events, and to lower yields for rice (the main crop). Food insecurity is a real and constant threat – especially for poor households with small plots of land or without any farmland at all.

In light of the institutional context, deficits in adaptive capacity at the household and local governments levels are not surprising. In the Mahafatoky project zone, these deficits are compounded by geographic isolation and low levels of public investment overall.

Accordingly, MAHAFATOKY project aims to increase the resilience of the target population through strengthened capacity to adapt to and reduce the adverse effects of climate change on their food security. For that purpose :

- communities are supported to adapt to climate change through more capable local leadership, and greater accountability of adaptation plans and programs to locally defined needs and priorities,
- forest resources are managed more sustainably, and
- women who are particularly vulnerable have increased their resilience through CARE's village savings and loans model

**Project Goal** : 50,000 households in two coastal districts in the SAVA Region of Madagascar will have increased resilience through strengthened capacity to adapt to and reduce the adverse effects of climate change on their food security.

**Activities:**

**IR1 : The network of local disaster risk management committees has the capacity to develop and mobilize public support for gender-responsive climate change adaptation plans:**

- 1.1 Provide training and technical support to village and commune DRM committees, enabling them to achieve their mandate and operate sustainably;
- 1.2 Collaborate with DRM committees to conduct participatory Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (CVCA) in each commune;
- 1.3 Conduct filed research on gender, social marginalization and climate vulnerability;
- 1.4 Support DRM committees to integrate climate change adaptation needs and priority actions into existing DRR plans

**IR2 : Local DRM committees have the technical and organizational capacities to operate sustainably and implement gender-responsive climate change adaptation plans:**

- 2.1 Support DRM committees to raise awareness around their commune's gender-responsive CCA priorities ;
- 2.2 Support DRM committees to implement gender-responsive CCA projects from their plans.

**IR3 : CCA strategies, programs and debates at the regional/national levels demonstrate greater transparency and accountability to local communities:**

- 3.1 Contribute to and influence the identification of CCA needs, priorities and strategies at the regional level ;
- 3.2 Develop and start implementing a CCA advocacy strategy.

**IR4 : Local farmers have access to up-to-date weather and climate information for proactive decision-making in the agricultural sector:**

- 4.1 Establish 14 micro climate and weather stations in each commune ;
- 4.2 Train volunteers to use the stations, and to request climate and weather data reports ;
- 4.3 Create a climate and weather information system accessible to small farmers.

**IR5 : Small farmers are practicing improved agricultural techniques to maintain stable levels of food production in the face of cyclones, flooding and rainfall variability:**

- 5.1 Identify and train 26 community agriculture agents from the project zone ;
- 5.2 Provide technical support to 22 500 small farmers for adopting basic, climate-smart agriculture techniques ;
- 5.3 Support small farmers to identify and produce hazard-tolerant seed varieties ;
- 5.4 Provide technical support and inputs to small farmers for adopting hazard-tolerant seeds and crops.

**IR6 : Communities have adopted improved natural resource management strategies to mitigate the effect of climate shocks on their productive assets and homes:**

- 6.1 Restore 14 hectares of mangroves through a cash and/or food-for-work program ;

6.2 Set up the infrastructure for 109 village tree nurseries through a cash and/or food-for-work program ;

6.3 Provide the technical assistance and inputs necessary for 109 existing community groups to start running village tree nurseries ;

6.4 Organize community reforestation along 6km of shoreline and train 10 communities to sustainably manage their coastal forests ;

6.5 Promote the creation of family tree reserves, inland in the project zone ;

6.6 Support DRM committees to organize community reforestation on public land, inland in the project zone.

**IR7 : Vulnerable women have reduced their climate risk through increased levels of income and strengthened collective voice :**

7.1 Establish and provide training to 182 Village Savings and Loans (VSL) groups ;

7.2 Create and build the capacity of two district-level VSL associations for women and allies of women