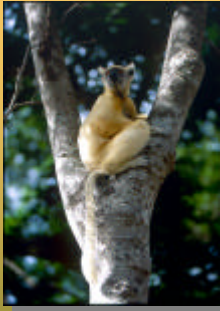


**Our challenge :
Integrate “best practices” mining
activities in regional
conservation and development
strategy for Daraina**



**Communities and Small Scale Mining (CASM)
September 7-10, Elmina Ghana**

Fanamby: Our mission and sites

FANAMBY, which means challenge in English, is a Malagasy NGO working for conservation and development by teaching communities to manage resources, stop traditional forest destructive livelihoods and facilitating private sector participation.



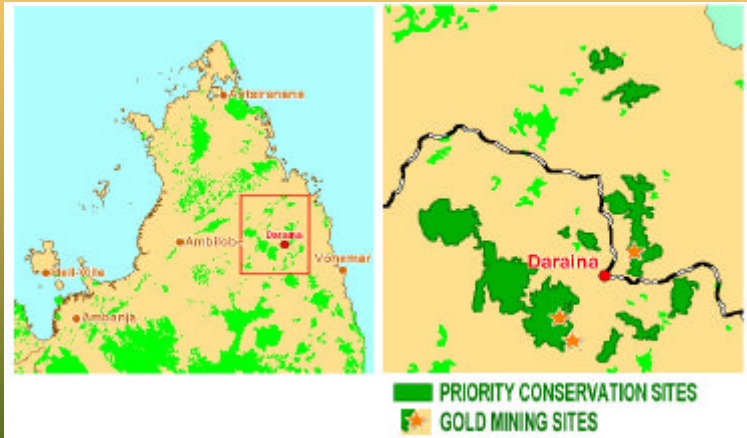
FANAMBY’s two major objectives in our three working sites are :

- protect biodiversity rich forests that currently have no legal protection statuts;
- build the capacity of local authorities and communities to manage their heritage of natural resources.

Conservation and development dynamic

The Daraina region is characterized by unique eco-tones and is home to the golden crowned sifaka, one of the 20 most endangered primates in the world.

Its also one of the islands largest and purest quality gold producers.

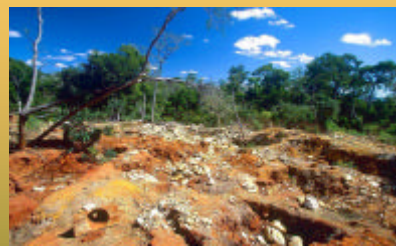


The most productive mining sites are situated in forests designated for conservation.

Problem identification in the Daraina region gold mining sector

Gold is produced from surface mines and is labor intensive during all phases of production. Mining holes vary in size from several meters wide and deep to sometimes 10 meters. After mines are dug the potential gold bearing stones are pounded to sand and the gold is extracted through basic filtration.

- This process is inefficient and labor intensive: 05 gr / month /producer
- Current market prices favor the intermediaries rather than the producer relative to work inputs:
 - \$ 9/gram at the producers
 - \$ 15/gram at the intermediaries



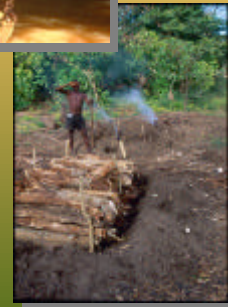
Environmental Impacts

- Land degradation from mines and erosion.
- Forest destruction as a result of mine digging.
- Reduced productivity in surrounding agricultural zones resulting from erosion and situation.

Legal constraints

Legal constraints are reducing the positive results between conservation and development:

- Inconsistency between original mining legislation and the new national forestry policy.
- Gold mining is not recognized regionally or nationally and therefore, legislation to litigate negative environmental impacts has not been developed.
- Efforts need to be made to conciliated conservation and mining priorities. FANAMBY has initiated this through both the mining project and FANAMBY's overall regional strategy.
- Mining codes recently published in government manuals need and best practices accepted by the associations must be enforced.

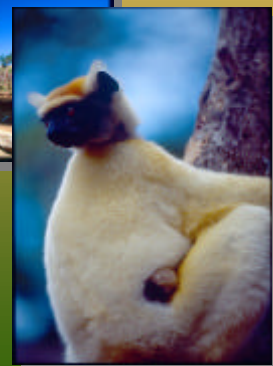


Defining Conservation and development solutions: Mining association development through CASM support

FANAMBY, through the support from CASM, FANAMBY is working with Mining associations to implement best practices and manage mine to respect natural resources.

The projects main objectives are:
Identify strategies and actions to increase productivity while respecting the integrity of the forest;

- Support for the creation and management of an institutional mining structure recognized by local authorities.



FANAMBY's project strategy

Helping miners to:

- Increase productivity while respecting site ecology
- Educate themselves on issues affecting mining communities (Health and sanitation)
- Take responsibility for regional conservation and ecological environmental health.



Field activities include:

- Identification of appropriate best practices technical production
- Eventually transfer the site management responsibilities to associations
- Help the associations to organize gold sales to improve marginal gains.
- Modules on Health and Environmental Education

Identifying “best practices” that respect ecology of the region

Regional best practices developed during the project include:

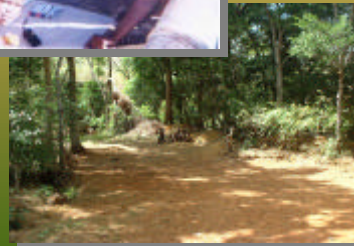
- Maintain production at the family level to avoid large scale land transformation.
- Identify and teach associations a generalized list of production techniques.
- Outlaw all forms of environmentally damaging mining techniques (use of mercury, strip mining, industrial mining land transformation practices)
- Manage post-mining land rehabilitation phase: fill-in abandoned mines, re-vegetation of denuded areas, etc.



Management transfer: a tool to integrate mining and responsible management

Contents of a successful community managed mining contract:

- Fix and stabilize the mining zone and define limited extensions based on regional management plans.
- Ensure that all mining areas will be managed from start to the post management phase.
- Establish contracts (GCF) that bind communities to strict site management.



Income redistribution: organizing associations capture higher margins in the open market

Through the project, FANAMBY is supporting mining associations organizing their sales capacity on the open market to:

- Ensure higher volumes of production, higher prices per gram and consistent customers.
- Higher production volumes will allow the associations to sell directly to regional buyers rather than intermediaries.
- Greater attention to the associations and ecological practices will allow the associations to charge higher prices.



Supporting activities to ensure a holistic approach

Mining communities earn income at different intervals than farming communities and are travel to distant markets on a more regular basis. These population groups are at greater health risks, both locally in the mines and in town.

- FANAMBY has developed health and education programs to teach environmental and ecological issues to communities.
- Health issues focus on hygiene education in the villages and potentially increased STD or HIV/AIDS risks that miners may encounter.



Next step priorities to supporting

Through the project FANAMBY has established three mining associations. The associations function, but need continual support to implement their strategies.

Next steps include:

- Marketing support to ensure greater margins
- Establishing a government accepted system of mining permits and linked to conservation management concepts
- Continued health and environmental education

