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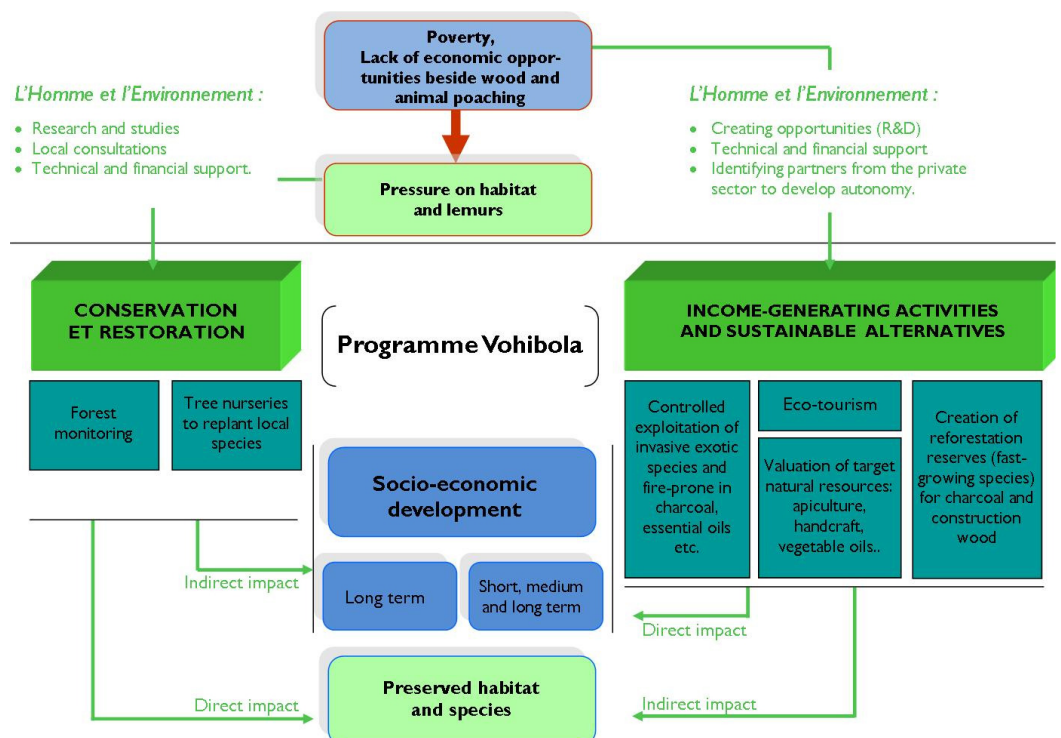
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Protecting lemurs of the coastal forest of Vohibola through conservation, habitat restoration and creation of economic alternatives for local communities.

Objectives :

- **Contribute to the sustainable conservation of the Vohibola lemurs by securing their habitat**
- **Increase fauna habitats and the connectivity between forest patches through forest restoration**
- **Provide economic alternatives to the overexploitation of forests for communities**
- **Increase the project economic impact for local populations.**

Methodology :



**(Man and the
Environment)**

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Summary

The strategic vision of *L'Homme et L'Environnement* is based on : The sustainable economic valuation of local natural resources by local populations, and the involvement of a responsible private sector that promotes the sustainability of local development.

L'Homme et l'Environnement is active in Madagascar against [backgrounds of high human precariousness, rare biodiversity that is threatened](#) by unsustainable practices of exploitation of natural resources (fire clearings, slash and burn, illegal timber trade, illegal trade of lemurs etc). In the case of Vohibola, exotic invasive species also represent an important threat.

Our method relies on the creation of economic [alternatives on the short, medium and long term with local communities](#) (income generating activities) that maintain a rational and framed approach to exploiting natural resources (*ecotourism, exploitation of invasive species as to diminish their proliferation (essential oils, charcoal, construction timber), rational use of indigenous resources (plants for handicrafts, calophyllum vegetable oils)*).

A [Research and Development](#) step allows the identification of these alternatives. This step is fundamental, and the condition *sine qua non* to any discourse or awareness action towards local communities about the challenges and opportunities brought about by biodiversity conservation.

In addition, [certification activities](#) (organic, fair trade, FSC etc.) and identification of private partners are undertaken. These seek to enhance the development of a self - sustaining economic development and to fight the lack of motivation among villagers. The objective is that everyone can find an income-generating activity that is less precarious and sufficient to compensate for revenues from current deforestation activities. The whole ecosystem benefits from this.

In parallel, [direct biodiversity conservation](#) actions are led with the full engagement of communities : reforestation, forest monitoring, fire management strategies, conservation of threatened species...All are initiatives that will help maintain natural capital in the long term and to protect services provided by ecosystems, locally as well as more globally.

Results :

The overall results of the projects were reached.

- The Vohibola forest has been protected, and pressure on lemurs has stopped (no remaining trap, no loss of habitat by fire or exploitation)
- 80 hectares reforested with local tree species ensure rebuilt fauna habitats
- 20% of the population has been mobilized in income-generating activities and through local staff employment of the NGO, mainly in the production of essential oils of paperback tree that are certified fair traded and organic
- Ecotourism, handcraft and processes to use exotic invasive plants are already established. All these activities - apart from ecotourism - are already economically sustainable.

Sources :

Internal documents from *L'Homme et l'Environnement* :

Monitoring and evaluation (conservation, impacts of income-generating activities)

Monitoring of biodiversity for forest restoration activities.