

# QUARTERLY REPORT

## April - June 2025

MITSINJO project funded by Balcombe Charitable Trust

### Context



In Madagascar, rural communities are highly-dependent on natural forest resources, including food, wood and medicinal plants, for their livelihoods.

This relationship, while vital, is undermined by accelerated deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and the growing effects of climate change. These compromise not only the country's unique biodiversity, but also the socio-economic resilience of local populations.

In Andasibe municipality, the areas of Mtsinjo Park formerly known as the Analamazaotra Forest Station and the New Protected Area of Torotorofotsy are under significant pressure, and have experienced significant forest losses in recent years.

The majority of the population, mainly low-income farmers, still practice slash-and-burn agriculture, limiting yields while aggravating ecosystem degradation. Women and girls, who make up about 60 per cent of the local population, are particularly vulnerable to poverty, food insecurity, and ecological impacts. However, they play a central role in the management of natural resources.

Faced with these challenges, the Mtsinjo Association is implementing a two-year project (2025-27) with three main objectives:

- to restore degraded forest ecosystems through active and passive regeneration approaches
- to strengthen the technical and economic capacities of local communities through the promotion of agroecology
- to increase their resilience to climate change by promoting job creation through Income Generating Activities (IGAs), temporary jobs, and community savings services

Several partners have already worked with Mtsinjo in the accomplishment of its mission, namely the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, FANC (2012-2024), and Money for Madagascar, MFM (2019 - present).

This project capitalises on good practice and extends the activities initiated by these partners, including the Resilient Forests and Livelihoods programme funded by MFM

## Partner information



Name	Association Mitsinjo
Address	Périnet Gare 514, Andasibe Madagascar

## Project information



Launch date	1 April 2025
Work began	10 April 2025
Project length	One year (April 2025-March 2026)
Budget	£14,927 UK Sterling (89,560,000Ar.)

## Project objectives



**Strategic Objective 1:** Contribute to ecological resilience and preserve biodiversity and resources by supporting forest restoration and reforestation

**SO2:** Provide local communities with the means to improve their socio-economic well-being so they can earn a decent living and preserve resources

**SO3:** Strengthen the technical and financial resilience or adaptive capacity of local populations to global warming

## Project targets



For the first year, the project targets the already existing structure, consisting of the local farmers who are members of the Community Savings Group set up by the RFL project in partnership with MFM: an estimated at 600 people in 120 households. This estimate takes into account active members of the GEC, and close family members who indirectly benefit from the actions carried out.

## Summary of achievements



This report details the main activities carried out during the first quarter of the project, based on:

- consultation of local communities (residents of intervention sites)
- the recruitment of nursery workers and the re-hiring of relay farmers
- the establishment of nurseries and production of endemic tree seedlings
- training/capacity-building of beneficiaries and distribution of seeds
- monitoring of activities and supervision of the beneficiaries

## Réalisations du projet (outputs)



Planned activity	Annual target	Results achieved (Apr-Jun 2025)	Reasons for difference(s)	Achievements
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**SO1: Contribute to ecological resilience and preserve biodiversity and resources by supporting forest restoration and reforestation**

Production of endemic tree seedlings	5,000 plants	3,434 plants produced in the Farahevitra nursery, belonging to 17 species including 4 fast-growing (category 1), 7 medium-growing (category 2) and 6 slow-growing (category 3) (Photo 1 and Table 1)	Production will continue in the next quarter	Setting up the beds and establishing shade Production of VAM (Vesicular-Arbuscular-Mycorrhizae) Collecting wildings Filling pots Potting wildings (seedlings) Nursery maintenance (weeding, watering, adding or removing shade, etc.)
Planting 5,000 plants	5Ha of restored and maintained forest	0Ha	Planting will take place by the end of 2025	Planting will take place on Mtsinjio Park restoration site (map in annex)

**S02: Provide local communities with the means to improve their socio-economic well-being so they can earn a decent living and preserve resources**

<p>Training beneficiaries in conservation farming</p>	<p>120 households benefiting from and practising the techniques</p>	<p>128 households benefit from training and apply the techniques (Figure 3)</p>	<p>The beneficiary households are those of members of 8 GECs. The planned number of members for each GEC was 15, but more members (nine) joined in Farahevitra and in three in Antanampasika</p>	<p>Beneficiaries received training/recycling on: compost production crop rotation and association plant cover (dead or alive) vegetable growing</p>
<p>Distribution of materials and seeds</p>	<p>120 beneficiary households Seeds distributed: 160 packs of vegetables, 80 kg of maize, 160 kg of beans or peas</p>	<p>128 households benefit from vegetable seed of their choice</p>		<p>After the vegetable growing training, each household received seeds of their choice (3 varieties/household) to implement the techniques. There were five varieties of seeds: green beans, ramirebaka, coriander, courgette and peas.</p>
<p>Sowing/planting distributed seeds</p>	<p>The 120 beneficiary households cultivate the seeds distributed, putting into practice the techniques they have been trained to use.</p>	<p>The 128 households are starting to grow the vegetable seeds supplied by applying the techniques trained</p>		<p>In addition to the plots for each household, a 'showcase' plot is set up for each GEC. In total, there are 8 'showcase' or 'school' plots</p>

<p>Monitoring</p>	<p>1-2 site visits per week, per technician</p> <p>Each site visited at least once per month</p>	<p>An average of 10 visits per technician</p> <p>3-5 visits to each site</p>	<p>The descent did not begin until mid-April due to the delay in starting up the business.</p>	<p>During each site visit, technicians meet with GEC members, discuss how activities are progressing, detect and resolve any problems, provide training or awareness-raising, distribute identify needs, visit plantations.</p>
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**SO3: Strengthen the technical and financial resilience or adaptive capacity of local populations to global warming**

<p>Creation of, support for, Community Savings Groups</p>	<p>120 people, including 96 women, have access to local financiers through 8 CSGs</p>	<p>128 people, 98 of whom are women, are members of 8 GECs (Figure 1 and Figure 2)</p>	<p>Although 15 members are planned for each GEC, there has been an increase in the number of members joining the group in Farahevitra (nine more members) and Antananpasika (3 more). There are only five members of the GEC at Betombotsirika</p>	<p>These 8 GECs were created as part of the RFL project (in partnership with MFM) and are supported by this project.</p> <p>The 8 GECs are operational and their members have access to loans (table 2).</p>
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<p>Job creation (Hire and train local people)</p>	<p>At least 20 local residents, including 8 women, have the opportunity to obtain permanent or seasonal paid employment thanks to support for job offers</p>	<p>5 nursery workers, including 2 women, and 2 relay farmers, including 1 woman, were hired</p>		<p>The relay farmers are former PRs recruited by the RFL project and rehired.</p> <p>The nursery workers are new recruits. The PRs and nursery workers are all GEC members</p>
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**Monitoring and supervision**

<p>Activity monitoring</p>	<p>Two follow-up visits per six-month period</p>		<p>The first visits will take place in the next quarter</p>	
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## Intermediate outcomes



S01

S02

S03

### Adoption of techniques

Trained nursery workers produce 5,000 forest tree seedlings (of which 3,434 are produced from April to June) for the restoration of 5-Ha of degraded forest area in the Mitsinjo site.

### Adoption of techniques

95% of beneficiary households have applied the acquired cultivation techniques (for growing vegetables) in their own fields

### Self-sufficiency

Members of the 8 GECs have access to loans, which they have used to:

invest in income-generating activities  
buy additional seeds  
pay for labour (ploughmen), particularly for vulnerable households (single mothers, widows, the elderly).

The maximum amount a member can borrow is capped at 3 times his or her cumulative membership fees.  
Capacity building

Nurserymen have been trained in setting up nurseries, producing VAM and producing forest tree seedlings.

The PRs have been trained in agricultural techniques and the GEC (setting up and running, management). They support the beneficiaries and provide local monitoring of activities in the field, strengthening local autonomy.

## Expected impact of the project



S01

S02

S03

Because of forest restoration:

- Forest cover increases
- Local ecological resilience strengthened

Because of productive farming techniques:

- Food insecurity reduced
- Agricultural yields increased
- Average household income improved

Because of functional GECs:

- Possibility and facilitation of access to microcredit
- Increase in average household income
- Economic empowerment of rural communities
- Nursery workers and relay farmers, will be increasingly involved and active in local development initiatives.

## Beneficiaries



Direct	Indirect
Beneficiary households and GEC members / Local service providers: 128 people; 98 women, 30 men	Family members of direct beneficiaries: 640 Local population (in Betombotsirika and the Mtsinjo Park ZP) Local transporters and hotels Mtsinjo Association (manager of Mtsinjo Park)

## Challenges



Challenge	Response
A delay in releasing the funds delayed the planned start of activities.	Activities that can be carried out without an immediate budget were launched Agreement with employees to start work, with a commitment to pay salaries at a later date, as soon as funds are available
Disengagement of some GEC members (Betombotsirika GEC and one of the Farahevitra GECs)	Continuation of activities with active, motivated members.
Budget not sufficient to ensure monthly payment of technicians' salaries	Introduction of a compensation system consisting of hiring technicians once or twice a week (1-2 days), in lieu of a monthly salary. The PRs monitor activities on the other days

# Outlook (Jul-Sept 2025)



- Formation and production of liquid compost
- Training on the production and planting of fruit tree seedlings
- Distribution and planting of coffee plants
- Field monitoring of activities (GEC and agriculture)
- Maintenance of the nursery
- Environmental Education for GEC Members

## Annexes



Figure 1: Total distribution of GIC members by gender

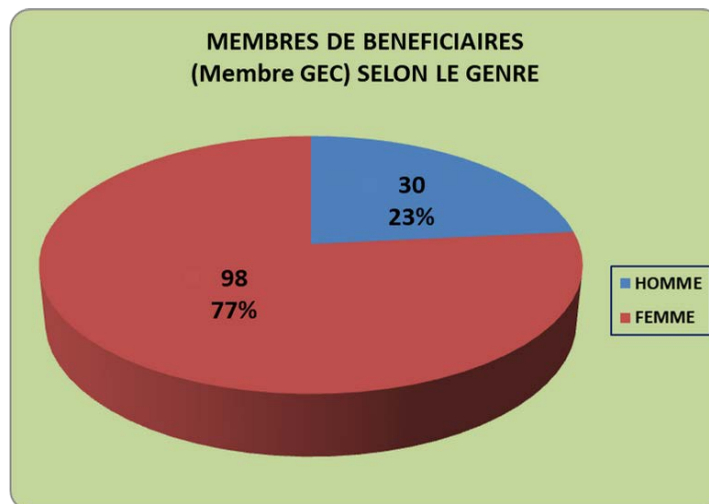


Figure 2: Distribution of GEC members by site and gender

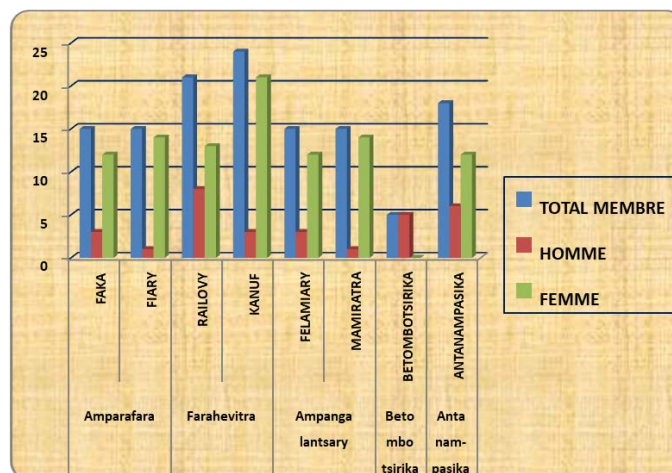
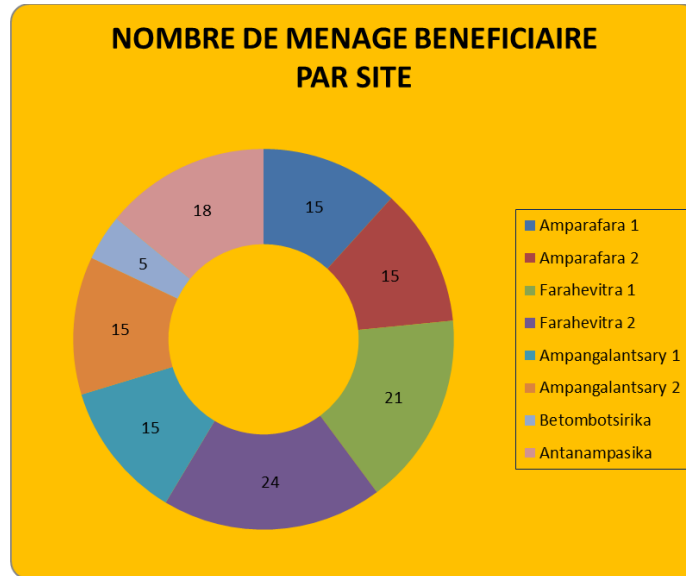
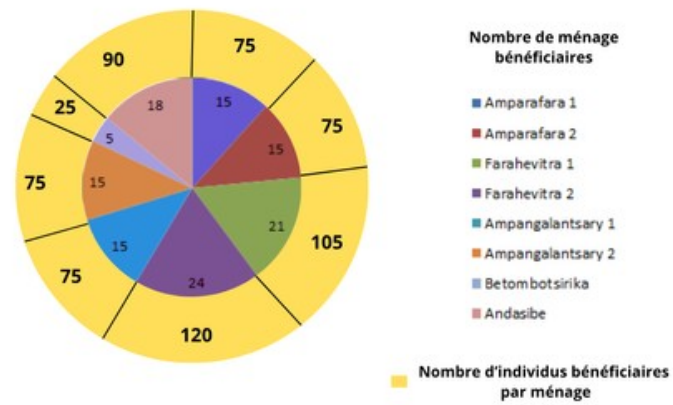


Figure3: Total number of beneficiary households by intervention site



NOMBRE DE BENEFICIAIRES PAR SITE ET PAR MENAGE



**Table1: List of seedlings produced in the nursery (April - June 2025)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Plants</b>
Arongana	Haronga madagascariensis	1	129
Pitsikahipotaka	Popinodiom (1)	1	100
Pitsikahitra	Popinodium (2)	1	819
Samanta	Euphorbia tetraptera	1	209
Ditimenaberavy	Abrahamia ditimena	2	20
Ditimenamadinidravina	Abrahamia (1)	2	700
Amboravoloina	Tambourissa	2	64
Hazombary madinidravina	Pittosporum (2)	2	28
Dipaty	Strobilus dimepate	2	80
Varongimainty	Ocotea (1)	2	145
Tavolopinaingo	Chryptocarya (1)	2	80
Acondrohazo	Ophycolea	3	75
Famanbamangidy	Suregada	3	333
Gavoalaberavina	Syzygium	3	48
Manoka	Astropea	3	560
Vongo	Mammea bongo	3	12
Meramaintso	Brachyllaena ramiflora	3	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 Species</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,434</b>

**Table 2: CSG Member Borrowing Data**

<b>Site</b>	<b>CSG name</b>	<b>Total members</b>	<b>Number who have borrowed</b>	<b>Loan frequency</b>	<b>Membership fee (weekly, per member, Ar.)</b>
Amparafara	Faka	15	15	3 times	2,500
Amparafara	Fiary	15	15	2-4 times	2,500
Farahevitra	Railovy	21	10	4-6 times	2,500
Farahevitra	Kanuf	24	24	4 times	2,000
Ampangalantsary	Felamiary	15	10	1-3 times	10,000
Ampangalantsary	Mamiratra	15	15	3 times	5,000
Antanamposika		18	18	2-3 times	2,000
Betambotsirika		5	5	2 times	2,500

Photo 1: Installation of new platforms at Farahevitra



Photo 2: VAM production



Photo 3: Tree seedlings produced at Farahevitra



Photo 4: a beneficiary's plot



Photo 5: Training/retraining of beneficiaries



Photo 6: Preparing the plot



Photo 7: Seed distribution



Photo 8: Compost hole



Photo 9: Sowing vegetable seeds



**FOLLOW-UP OF RFL PROJECT ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY MFM**

**School plots DAF**



**Vegetable growing (seeds distributed in March 2025)**



**Plants from the Betorbotsirika nursery transported to Farahevitra**

**Plants produced at the nursery in Farahevitra**



